

# HULL CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2005



**The Northern Theatre – formerly the College of Art  
- the Civic Society’s new venue for meetings.**

*In this issue: Autumn Programme, New Venue, January 2006 Newsletter, Chairman’s Report, Summer Events, Sculcoates? - a Conservation Area? CALM and Good Mark Presentations at the Rugby Tavern, Proposed Riverside Development, Good Marks – Queens Court and Annison’s, City Centre Towers, Planning and Buildings, A History Centre for Hull, Castle Street Improvement, Readers’ Letters, East Yorkshire Local History Society, Correction (June Newsletter), Officers and Committee.*

## Autumn Programme 2005-2006

Non-members are welcome to join us for all our visits and meetings, but to give us an idea of the number of people attending visits and special events, **please book in advance** with our Honorary Secretary, Ken Baker, by telephone (01482) 224767 or e-mail [kbaker@goodwin-centre.org](mailto:kbaker@goodwin-centre.org) or by filling in the attached booking form.

### Visits and other special events

#### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2pm - Newland Park and University Conservation Areas**

*Meet at 42 Newland Park. Places strictly limited – advanced booking through Ken Baker, our Secretary, is essential - see booking form.*

This is an opportunity to visit one of Hull's most attractive residential Conservation Areas and the proposed new University Conservation Area. The visit will begin in the garden of 42 Newland Park, where Mrs Sue Whittaker of the Residents' Association will give a presentation of the history and development of Newland Park. Afterwards, we shall walk quickly around Newland Park, guided by a member of Hull Civic Society, and then onto the University of Hull campus. *If you are able to bring a garden chair or two with you to 42 Newland Park, this would be a great help in seating everyone during the presentation.*

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 7.00 pm – Tour of historic pubs, Hull City Centre** led by CAMRA (Campaign for real ale). *Meeting at the Minerva, Nelson Street (overlooking the pier) we shall work our way towards the city centre.* Please note that this is not a pub-crawl! We shall, however, be spending a little time inside each pub to talk about its features and character. The aim of the tour is to raise members' awareness of the architectural and historic features of Hull's rich heritage of traditional public houses.

#### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 8.00 for 8.30 pm start, Quiz – “So you think you know Hull?”**

The quiz will be held in the Banqueting Suite at the Guildhall, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Charity. *If you would like to respond to this challenge by forming a team of five, please complete the attached entry form. Each team will be invited to make a donation to the Lord Mayor's Charity. This will be an entertaining evening, where those who go about Hull with their eyes open are likely to score highly on questions such as “Which way does Queen Victoria face in her square?” Can you prove that you know more about Hull than the Lord Mayor's team? There will be a cash bar.*

### Public Meetings

*All are on Mondays at 7.30 pm at the Northern Theatre (former College of Art), Anlaby Road.*

**19<sup>th</sup> September** – “Hull's New History Centre” - *Martin Taylor, Hull City Archivist.*

Hull's Archivist will talk about plans for a combined archive, and local history resource centre. *(See article)*  
**The winner of our summer Hessle Road Treasure Hunt will be announced and presented with two return rail tickets to London, courtesy of Hull Trains, who have kindly sponsored the competition.**

**10<sup>th</sup> October** – “Understanding our landscapes” - *Professor J Appleton, Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of Hull.* Professor Appleton will talk about a new way of enjoying and understanding landscapes and explains why we like some landscapes better than others!

**14<sup>th</sup> November** – “Life of Brian” - *Brian Randall, Chartered Institute of Building.*

Brian Randall is a well know figure in Hull's building trade and talks about his life in the City.

**12<sup>th</sup> December** – “Quay West - Hull's New Shopping Quarter” – *Henderson Global Investors.*

The owners of Princes Quay plan to create a £250m shopping quarter, next to the existing Princes Quay Shopping Centre in the Waterhouse Lane area. Hear about it at first hand!

**9<sup>th</sup> January** – “The dawn of a new performance” - *Joanne Gower, Executive Director, Hull Truck Theatre Company.* Hull Truck is on the brink of creating a new theatre complex as part of Hull's St Stephens complex. Joanne Gower will tell us more about the project.

### **13<sup>th</sup> February** – “Hull’s Local Transport Plan” – *Mike Ibbotson, Hull City Council.*

Local Transport Plans (LTP) set out how local authorities deal with transport issues over a 5-year period. LTP2 starts in 2006, so this is an opportunity to find out what’s involved.

### **13<sup>th</sup> March** - AGM, followed by “Housing Pathfinder (Gateway)” - *Janet Whipps.*

Gateway is a government initiative to tackle low housing demand and abandonment. Janet leads the local team that will provide sustained action to turn round the city’s housing markets failure. Over the next three years, £500 million is being made available nationally with the intention of reversing low demand by 2010.

#### **New Venue for Civic Society Autumn Programme**

The 2005-2006 season of public meetings will be held at the College of Art building on Anlaby Road, home of the Northern Theatre Company and the Northern Academy of Performing Arts since 2004. The College of Art (1904), which is listed Grade 2\*, was designed by E.A. Richards in brick and stone, with a semi-circular porch, carvings and a mosaic representing the arts (by the Bromsgrove Arts Guild) in the pediment. The building is just round the corner from our previous venue and we shall be able to use the car park at the southern side of Paragon Station as many members did for meetings at the Royal Hotel. Wheelchair access is available.

There are three main reasons for the move. It will provide tangible support to the Northern Theatre Company, which has taken a leap of faith in buying one of Hull’s most elegant Edwardian listed buildings, vacated in 2002 by the University of Lincoln. Secondly, we felt that the social aspect of the society would benefit from the less formal refreshment arrangements at this venue. Thirdly, there will be a saving in room hire fees, making better use of the Society’s resources. Nevertheless, we have been very satisfied with the service provided for the Society at the Royal Hotel for many years, and we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the hotel management and staff for all their hard work and co-operation.

Editor

#### **January Newsletter**

Many thanks to all our contributors. Please submit all items for the January Newsletter by 24<sup>th</sup> November. All contributions which reflect the aims of the society are welcome, though it may be necessary to edit them or hold them over to later issues for reasons of space. Items may be sent to the Editor, John Scotney at: 126 Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RZ, or e-mail [john.scotney@talk21.com](mailto:john.scotney@talk21.com).

#### **Chairman’s Report**

Welcome to the September Newsletter. I hope during the summer you were able to take part in our summer programme. The programme started on 15 May with a City Centre Walk. Fortunately, Paul Schofield stepped in for Roy Dean (who has now left his post) to lead an interesting balance of contemporary developments set within a historical context. On Monday 6 June 2005 we visited Paull and are much indebted to David Smith for a fascinating tour of the village. The next event on 19 June 2005 marked the designation of the Sculcoates Conservation Area. Hilary Byers, Conservation Officer, Hull City Council explained why the area was designated and how its special character will be protected. Then an old favourite - ‘Open House’ held this year on Saturday and Sunday 2/3 July 2005 - an opportunity to see behind some of Hull’s unique buildings old and new. Finally, on 17 July 2005 we visited Wakefield and followed the City’s highly successful Blue Plaque trail unveiling some of this industrial Yorkshire town’s unique architectural and historic gems. In September, we have two more events – a tour of historic pubs (Kindly led by Hull Campaign for Real Ale) and Newland Park. For both events please see our list of events. Something equally enticing is planned for October with a Hull history quiz.

September also marks the start of our Winter Programme of Talks. Please note that these will now be held at Northern Theatre (former School of Fine Art), Anlaby Road, and Hull. Parking is available behind and we always encourage you to use Public Transport. The programme starts with an insight and sneak preview into the City’s proposed new History Centre. The Committee has taken a keen



interest and we hope the meeting will give you an opportunity to be involved in this exciting new facility. October sees Professor Appleton give an academic view on design and the environment and in November the ‘Life of Brian’ by Brian Randall, Guild of Building. Something altogether different in December - Quay West – Hull’s new shopping quarter. We start the New Year with Joanne Gower, Hull Truck and then in February Mike Ibbotson from Hull City Council who talks about Hull’s new Local Transport Plan. Finally, the programme concludes with the Annual General Meeting following by Gateway – Hull’s Housing Pathfinder. I look forward to seeing you at some or all of these events. You are welcome of course to bring along guests.

Although the development scene in the City is relatively quiet there have nonetheless been some interesting proposals which have caused great debate amongst the committee. None more so than the new housing complex planned for the former Edwin Davis Store on Bond Street. Is it too tall? Should we welcome bold new architecture? Then there is the site at the corner of High Street/Alfred Gelder Street – again for housing. It’s pleasing to note that a Good Mark was awarded for the architectural merit of Queen’s Court and to Salters Court. We always welcome your suggestions. All in all a busy time for the Civic Society. Nothing new, then!

Adam Fowler

### *Summer Events 2005*

*Thank you ....*

*To Dave Smith for a very enjoyable guided tour of Paull and its environs on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June and to Cynthia Fowler for her hospitality after the walk*



Paull photos by Chris Mead

*To Hilary Byers, Conservation Officer, for a most informative tour of the Sculcoates Conservation Area on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June and to the Rev John Leeman for showing us round St Mary’s Church.. (See article).*

*To Kevin Trickett, Mike O’Donnell and Margaret Holwell of Wakefield Civic Society for their very interesting “Blue Plaque” guided tour of Wakefield on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July.*



Left: Catacomb of the Unitarian Chapel. Wakefield

Right: Kevin Trickett of Wakefield Civic Society showing us St John’s Square, Wakefield.

Photos: JD Scotney



## Sculcoates? - a Conservation Area?

I can almost hear the incredulous tone of the doubters when the idea of a Sculcoates Conservation Area was first proposed! After all, it's neither an attractive residential area like the Avenues or Newland Park nor full of historic buildings like the Old Town. Why then was Sculcoates designated a Conservation Area in January 2005? On a hot Sunday afternoon in June a group of us, led by the city's Conservation Officer, Hilary Byers, set out to see what this industrial area offers that is worth conserving.

The visit began at St Mary's, Sculcoates. Rev John Leeman, the vicar, admitted when he welcomed us that when he first arrived over 30 years ago, its exterior was so nondescript that he passed the church three times before he found it! Its tower would have been unmissable if the whole of the original scheme drawn up by the celebrated architect, Temple Moore, had been carried out, but its omission and a shorter chancel than that shown on the plans were necessary economies. Sculcoates is actually a very old parish, being first mentioned in 1290, but between 1915 and 1916 the old church, which stood about a quarter of a mile further east, was replaced by a larger one nearer to the main housing area. The rather dull brickwork facing Sculcoates Lane hides a splendid interior. The entrance brings the visitor first into the Chapel of St Francis, which contains some of the original woodwork from the medieval church. Alongside this, is the main church, lofty and dramatic, designed for the new emphasis on Holy Communion; light from the high windows floods into the chancel and onto the high altar. Unusual features include a font which was originally a Georgian wine cooler from Hotham Hall and a memorial in a shorthand script known as Byrom.

Almost opposite are the new houses on the sites of the power station and Needler's sweet factory. Marketed as Urban Sensation by CentreRenewals Ltd, a joint venture of Wright Homes Ltd and Horncastle Group Plc, it consists of 170 three-storey, four-bedroomed houses. We were shown computer-generated images and plans by the firm's representative at the site office. The green wildlife haven of Beverley and Barmston Drain runs through the site and we were pleased to hear that it is regarded as an asset. A footbridge was installed in June to link both halves of the site. We learned that a new right of way alongside the drain is to be created through the housing development so that pedestrians and cyclists will be able to reach Ryde Street, to the north of the railway embankment.

To describe the two graveyards on opposite sides of Sculcoates Lane as a wildlife haven is an understatement. Although Sculcoates was a small riverside village with a church, manor house and windmill, the parish extended right down to the northern boundary of the Old Town (Queens Gardens) and was not incorporated into the borough of Hull until 1837. As the population grew with the spread of houses and factories to the north of Hull in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the old graveyard around the church in Air Street became full and the Church purchased and consecrated two plots of land in Sculcoates Lane for burials. Although they have been tidied up by working parties from time to time, nature has again taken charge! They contain two newly-listed structures which are a tangible link to Hull's years as a garrison town: the graves of William Young, paymaster's clerk at the garrison (died 1835) and of William Newmarch, a soldier for 21 years until his death in 1854. The latter gives a full list of the campaigns in which he served.

At the end of Sculcoates Lane we were shown the parapets of the bridge across the Beverley & Skidby Drain, which was culverted in the 1960s, then we followed Air Street's dog's-leg course, surrounded by paint, seed-crushing, engineering and tanning works, which are also part of the character of Sculcoates. Amid the industry is the old churchyard, now maintained by the city council, and the former National School building of the 1840s, which stands between Bankside and the river. Our guide then took us along the riverside southwards to see a diverse collection of listed buildings. The largest was the British Extracting Co (later BOCM) silo and receiving house (1915). Although it stands on the eastern bank of the River Hull, it is included in the Conservation Area because of its contribution to the character of this part of Wincolmlée. We were pleased to hear that although a new use for the complete structure has not yet been found, the river wharf and surrounding land is now being used for loading bagged aggregates onto barges, three of which were moored that afternoon. Here, Wilmington Railway Bridge, an interesting listed structure with a control cabin straddling the

tracks, still carries pedestrians and cyclists across the river. Sculcoates Goods depot is another listed relic of Hull's industrial past, built for the North Eastern Railway in the 1860s and now used by a road haulage firm for a similar purpose after years of dereliction. Part of the yard is now a Gypsy site.

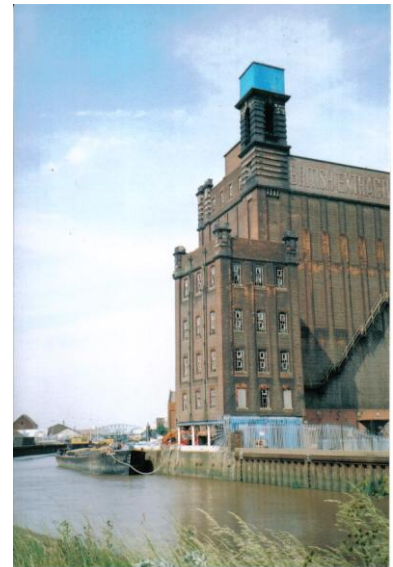
Walking along the footpath along the former Victoria Dock Branch railway line, we paused to admire the rear of the Tudor-style Northumberland Avenue Almshouses (1884-86) by Smith & Brodrick, built to replace several almshouses in the Old Town. We then turned onto another former railway embankment, which used to carry the Hull and Barnsley line trains to Cannon Street and now gives superb elevated views, including that of the Beverly & Barmston Drain. It is crossed by a number of bridges from which one can enjoy the peaceful view. That at Stepney Lane is probably as old as the drain (1809), to judge by its small hand-made bricks. These days, it leads into a builder's yard, but Stepney Lane would originally have continued to the bank of the River Hull.

Even more important than the pleasant, almost rural views is the fact that the wild banks of the Beverley & Barmston Drain are a Conservation Area in another sense, as they provide a wildlife corridor and an undisturbed nature reserve stretching all the way from High Flags (near Scott Street Bridge) to the edge of the city. As if to emphasise the importance of the drain to wildlife, the last stretch of our walk was rewarded by the sight of two swans with their cygnet.

If there was one addition we would like to see to this diverse area, it would be the inclusion of some of the surviving terraces in Sculcoates Lane that housed the people who worked in its industries. However, we would like to congratulate the City Conservation Officer, Hilary Byers, for having the foresight to propose the Sculcoates Conservation Area and the City Council for agreeing to designate it. Thanks also to Hilary for leading us around this interesting area.

John Scotney.

*Sculcoates contrasts: St Mary's, "Urban Sensation" houses in Sculcoates Lane, British Extracting Silo, Sculcoates Churchyard & former National School and the Beverley & Barmston Drain at Stepney Lane Bridge (Photos: JD Scotney).*







***Presentations at the Rugby Tavern, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2005.***

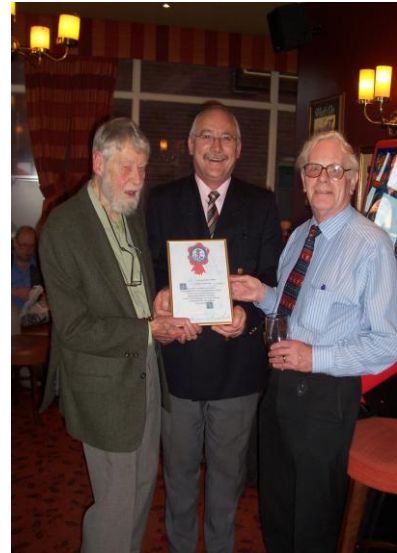
CALM Awards were presented to the licensees of the Rugby Tavern, Dock Street, Paul and Andrea Robinson, by Donald Campbell (Vice President) and Ken Baker (Hon Secretary) on the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2005. At the same time CALM Awards were also presented to the licensee of Ye Olde Blue Bell, Lowgate, Ted Duffield, and the Area Manager of Samuel Smiths Old Brewery, Tadcaster, Laura Burley.

The Awards were made as a result of the policy of Samuel Smiths to remove all televisions, juke boxes and background music from their premises. They have also turned off the sound on their fruit machines. The result is that we now have two more public houses where people can sit and talk without having to shout over the constant thumping of loud music, and enjoy a pint or two of their favourite tipple!

The decision to award the Brewery was because of their new policy to remove all music etc. from their premises and we congratulate them for protecting 'The Art of Good Conversation'. After many years of having music and televisions etc in their premises this must have been a great step to take amidst great adversity.

*All photographs by kind permission of Paul Robinson (Rugby Tavern)*

Middle and right:  
Donald Campbell and Ken Baker presenting CALM Awards to Laura Burley for Samuel Smiths Brewery (left) and Ted Duffield of Ye Olde Blue Bell (right).



Below:  
Donald Campbell (left) and Ken Baker (right) presenting the CALM Award to Paul and Andrea Robinson of the Rugby Tavern.



**The following Public Houses have CALM Awards:**

Ye Olde White Harte (Silver Street), Ye Olde Blue Bell (Lowgate), The Three John Scotts (Lowgate), Rugby Tavern (Dock Street), The Admiral of the Humber (Anlaby Road), St. Johns - Rear Room Only (Queens Road), The Zachariah Pearson (Beverley Road), George Hotel (Land of Green Ginger), Ye Olde Black Boy – Front Room Only (High Street).

**The following Cafes have CALM Awards:**

Camille's Café (Trinity House Lane), Studio 10½ (King Street).

At the time of writing more premises are being considered for CALM Awards. Watch out for further announcements!

Ian Loge.

### **Re-presentation of the 1986 'Good Mark' Award for the Rugby Tavern.**

On the same evening a copy of the original 'Good Mark' Award and Citation of November 1986 was re-presented to Paul and Andrea Robinson of the Rugby Tavern by Donald Campbell and Ian Loge.



Donald Campbell presented the original in 1986 which was for "The transformation of derelict buildings into a roomy, colourful and well appointed public house of a high standard. The refurbished exterior, with an attractive timber traditional front, now forms a further attractive feature in what was until recently a run-down city centre backwater".

*Ian Loge (left) and Donald Campbell (right) re-presenting the 'Good Mark' and Citation to Paul and Andrea Robinson of the Rugby Tavern.*

Ian Loge.

### **Proposed Riverside Development**

An outline planning application has been submitted for the redevelopment of the land between Tower Street and the east bank of the River Hull. The mixed development would comprise residential, office, hotel, restaurant, bar, takeaway and retail uses, with associated public and private open space, car parking and a pedestrian/cycle swing bridge over the River Hull. Although this is an outline application, the illustrative plans indicate what the details are likely to be when the reserved matters are applied for.

All the existing buildings on the east bank of the River Hull, between Myton Bridge and the former Victoria Dock entrance, would be demolished except for the listed former Trinity House Buoy Shed. There would be eight blocks of one and two bedroom flats along the riverbank. The flats would have undercroft ground floor car parking and they would be generously spaced with landscaped areas between them. The blocks of flats would progressively increase in height from the Buoy Shed to Myton Bridge, being the same height as the Buoy Shed near there and about 30 metres near Myton Bridge.

There would be a public path, 5 metres wide, along the riverbank. A swing bridge from Scale Lane Staith would lead to a public square, where there would be outdoor seating at 28 tables and a restaurant, a takeaway, a public bar and a shop. Plans would be submitted later to convert the Buoy Shed to a modern use.

On the east side of Tower Street, there would be two blocks of flats between the Royal Mail Delivery Office and the former St. Peter's churchyard. These flats would enclose a large landscaped area. At the corner of Citadel Way and Tower Street, there would be a large hotel. There would be parking for about 90 cars under Myton Bridge with access from Citadel Way and Tower Street.

The scheme has been well thought out. If built according to the illustrative plans and the flats were reasonably priced, it would be a popular development. It would be so superior to residential developments on the west side of the River Hull that it would be likely to adversely affect their occupancy rates. I feel sure that the Planning Committee will approve the outline application. We await detailed planning applications for the siting, building design, external appearance, means of access and landscaping.

Walter Houlton.



## Good Mark - Queen's Court

The reality of Queen's Court surpasses the artist's impression in the Hull City Image marketing literature and it represents the beginnings of a new sensitivity in Hull city centre regeneration.

Queen's Court has the quality of a great ocean liner - a vital, thrusting form, yet curiously at rest alongside a once-busy and prosperous town centre dock. The bow points down to the main entrance, surmounted by a minimal but authoritative logo of the BBC, whose occupation of the ground and



(Photo: M Sharman)

lower floors for their regional H.Q. and studios has created a building with a sense of importance and gravitas. This "flagship" edifice is featured each day on local TV broadcasts, at once becoming an ikon of Hull's current development, as well as providing a significant presence in defining the extent and character of an important civic space.

Above the Plimsoll line of the BBC premises are the varied and animated forms of the accommodation decks and superstructures, busy with lively yet functional openings and projecting balconies. These provide suitably elevated vistas

for those lucky enough to be on board. The interior spaces vary according to price and lend themselves to being fitted out according to individual taste. All share some floor-to-ceiling glazing to allow sensational views and spectacular juxtapositions of our more significant buildings and topography. The city centre big TV screen could present these views to be shared by all - they are better than you imagine!

Ultimately, "the bridge" houses the premier penthouse apartments, contained within a subtle course of panels and railings, all surmounted by a defining blue neon strip at night. One panel is missing, removed so that the residents may lie in bed and watch city life and colour, fluctuating in tidal fashion far below.

The ceramic materials used in construction pick up the pale brick of the curve of Queen's Dock Avenue, while the glass and steel make sufficient contrast and point to the future.

There's more to this building than a cursory glance reveals and its interesting asymmetry provides the astute observer with satisfying rewards. It's just so right for where it is and the developer and designers deserve the Good Mark awarded by the Society. Bravo for a significant contribution towards our ambitions for a Top Ten cityscape.

Malcolm Sharman.

## Good Mark – Restoration of Annison's



Annison's (Witham Bargain Centre) 2005. (Photo: JD Scotney)

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

Annison's livery stables and funeral director's business at 119-127 Witham is an important relic 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 of a public event for the community in which the deceased had 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### City Centre Towers

#### Queens House Tower.

Walking through the City Centre the other evening, I was delighted to see the Queens House tower and clock illuminated against the darkening sky. The clock was resplendent and easily viewed, as was the tower with its up-lighters under the cupola.



*Queens Clock Tower (photo Ian Loge)*



*Market Hall Tower (photo Ian Loge)*

### **Market Hall Tower.**

David Stipetic (Clock Custodian and Consultant, Hull City Council) has informed us that the Market Hall tower, which was damaged earlier in the year during a gale, is to be restored shortly. The wrought iron weather vane, which was broken off during the gale, has now been restored to its former glory and is to be mounted on top of the cupola again. While this work is carried out, restoration of the tower will also be carried out with the underside of the cupola being cleaned, up-lighters installed and fine self-cleaning stainless meshes being inserted into the openings to keep out the pigeons. We look forward to this work being completed as it will be a fine companion to the illuminated Holy Trinity Church tower.

### **The Guildhall Tower.**

In early October, three new bells will be hung in the Guildhall tower, bringing the total number to seventeen. These will join the Millennium Carillon, the Chiming Bells and the Bowden Bell. The three new bells will enhance the Carillon so that approximately 200 tunes will be able to be played.

### **Holy Trinity Church Tower.**

The Lady Bell, formerly the bell of the German Lutheran Church in Hull, has now been installed in Holy Trinity Church tower. The bell, which was re-dedicated as the 'Lady Bell' by the Rev. Canon L.S. Deas earlier this year, was originally presented to the German Lutheran Church in Hull in 1910.

Ian Loge.

*The Guildhall tower and the Lady Bell (photos: Ian Loge)*



## **Planning and Buildings**

### **Old Town**

Trinity House owns all the retail property on the south side of Whitefriargate and is progressively refurbishing it to compete with the St Stephen's development. In July, they submitted an application for 30, 31 and 32 Whitefriargate to enlarge the ground floor part of the shop, create a first floor sales



area, bring the attic back into use and improve the front elevation. The under-use of upper floors of shops is an issue that is often raised by the national Civic Trust and Trinity House is setting a good example here. At 1-3 Trinity House Lane, good use is also to be made of the first and second floors above JD Wetherspoon's "Hogshead" café bar. Permission was granted in August for conversion into 11 self-contained flats.

When, despite the city council's opposition, Francis Daly converted three empty warehouses on Princes Dock Side, Posterngate and Dagger Lane into the Waterfront Hotel and Club, it was a pioneering step in the regeneration of the Old Town and set the precedent for other warehouse conversions. In July, its present owners, Luminar Leisure, received permission for change of use of the hotel into additional nightclub space. I was interested to discover that, as well as their excellent restoration of the Tower on Anlaby Road as a nightclub, Luminar earned a Good Mark from Nottingham Civic Society in March for their sensitive refurbishment and extension of the old Nottingham Palais dance hall.

The dilapidated condition of Burnett House, the green and cream building on the north side of Castle St near the Market Place junction, is a poor advert for Hull and many people comment on this. At last, CityBuild are taking it in hand to make it more presentable and have applied to demolish a single storey building at the rear. Burnett House was formerly the Britannia Hotel, Mytongate.

Unlike Burnett House, which, refurbished, would be a very attractive feature of the Old Town, it seems that the "Portside" overlooking the entrance to the Marina, has completely outlived its usefulness. This single-storey pub was built in the 1980s and has changed names and owners several times. Now CityBuild have applied to demolish it and to pave and grass the site.

Although Humber Street is still the centre of the wholesale fruit market, traders are looking ahead to their eventual departure and another firm, N. Williamson, applied in August for permission to convert its warehouse at 23 Humber St into 3 flats and to build 3 houses at the rear. A much larger residential development in the eastern part of Humber St is foreshadowed in an outline application by R Hough and Nellis, to build four 3-storey blocks of flats on the south side of Humber St and the east side of Queen Street. It would involve the demolition of three industrial buildings. On Queen St, it would fill an unsightly gap in the building line last occupied by the fine late-Georgian Northern Chambers, which burned down in the early 1970s. Coincidentally, Topcheer, the owners of the adjacent Central Dry Dock, further east on Humber St, have applied to demolish all buildings on their site, but there is no corresponding application for new development at the time of writing.

### City Centre

Despite planning officers' recommendation for refusal, the Hollybrook application to build an 18-storey block of flats on the site of the former Edwin Davis store was approved in July. The Civic Society objected on the grounds of excessive height but the Planning Committee felt that too many schemes for this site have come and gone and it was now time to seize any opportunity to start the regeneration of the area.

The application to build 31 flats on the site of Castle Interiors furniture store in Percy St, which I mentioned in the last Newsletter, was not as speculative as I thought; Westbridge Homes, who are already building on the adjoining site in Baker St, have acquired this site. In August they submitted another scheme for flats on the site of 25 Wright St. The amended version of Kingston Apartments' application for redevelopment of 10, 11 and 12 Dock St, submitted in August, is much more sympathetic than the original total demolition scheme, to which we objected. It is now proposed to retain as much of the original structure of these late 18<sup>th</sup> century houses as possible while rebuilding the internal floors.

### Ferensway

In July, the whole development site was fenced off and St Stephen's St and the southern ends of Spring St and Canning St were closed. Only Collier St remains open to give access to the station car parks. Hull Truck submitted plans in July for its new theatre on the site of the old Albemarle Centre.

### Island Wharf / Marina

A six-storey block of 41 flats at the corner of Railway St and Wellington St West. was approved in July.

### East Hull

An outline application was submitted in mid-August for a mixed-use development of flats, shops, restaurant and bar on the east bank of the River Hull, with a pedestrian bridge to Scale Lane Staith. *For more details, see Walter Houlton's article in this Newsletter.* Nearby, in Victoria Dock Village, an application was submitted in July to convert one of its landmarks, the winding house on Plimsoll Way, into a community centre. The building stands at what was the landward end of the slipway and the plans include re-installing the winding engine, currently on display on the Marina Promenade.

Permission was granted in July for demolition of 10 empty houses in front of Morrison's on Holderness Rd (688-706) and construction of a new health centre on the site. The scheme for shops and flats on the site of the former Berkeley Cinema on Greenwich Ave, Bilton Grange, was refused at the same meeting.

### West Hull

In August, the Planning Committee rejected Alfa Property Management's application to build a 5-storey hotel on the site of the New York Hotel and the old Salvation Army Ice House at 51-61 Anlaby Rd, with a service entrance through the retained façade of the Albert Hall music hall in Midland Street. Approval had been recommended by the planning officers.

An attractive new public building, the Octagon neighbourhood centre in Walker St is now finished and open. If you are in the area, it is well worth a detour.

The City Temple at the corner of Hessle Rd and Madeley St has been on the "Listed Buildings at Risk" register for many years, although the Northern Theatre Company have used the rear part of it and done some maintenance on the disused main chapel. It was built as Hessle Rd Primitive Methodist Chapel in 1881, sold to the Elim Pentecostals in 1934 and closed in 1984, according to



Eureka cinema in 1991. Photo: JD Scotney

"Lost Churches and Chapels of Hull". In July, a very sympathetic scheme to convert it into six dwellings was submitted by a developer called James Calligan.

In July, another piece of Hull's cinema history disappeared when the façade of the Eureka Picture Palace on Hessle Rd, was demolished to make way for a new Lidl supermarket. Robert Curry in "Last Complete Performance" says that it opened on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1912 and closed as a cinema on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1959, but continued in use for pop concerts and Bingo until 1989. As it had been rejected as a candidate for listing, there was nothing to prevent demolition.

### North Hull

Developers' enthusiasm for building flats near the city centre is evident on the north side of Freetown way as well as in Wright St and other streets of the Georgian New Town. Flats are under construction at the corner of Caroline St and Sykes St on the site of The Rose public house and at the western end of Francis St on the site of Good News Travels coach depot. Permission was given in July for the conversion of the former School of Architecture off Strand Close into 6 apartments with a swimming pool as part of the development.

About nine years after the demolition of the old Princes Ave Methodist Church and erection of the new one, the second phase of the scheme moved a step nearer with an application for 7 flats on the land to the rear between Belvoir St and Blenheim St. I understand that there are moves also to use the remaining part of the Sunday School building for an art project.

Tesco's application to build a convenience store at the corner of Spring Bank and Stanley St was approved by the Planning Committee in July, despite being recommended for refusal on the grounds of poor design by the planning officers.

*I am indebted to Walter Houlton, Cynthia Fowler and other Society members who have passed on information, as well as the very helpful staff of the city Council's Planning Department. Much architectural information comes from N. Pevsner and D. Neave's book "The Buildings of England - York and the East Riding" (1995).*

Editor.

## **A History Centre for Hull**

Every time I visit the Hull City Archives I feel rather like a conspirator. Standing at a door that is firmly locked, one has to press a button and identify oneself to a disembodied voice through a microphone, then the door buzzes and can be pushed open to gain access to a curving staircase up the corner tower to reach the first floor. One Tuesday in early July, the feeling of conspiracy was heightened when, in the quiet of the lunch hour, four Civic Society members met in the deserted reading room. However, there was nothing sinister about this meeting.

Our host was Martin Taylor, the City Archivist, who had invited us to see the plans and model of the proposed Hull History Centre, which would bring together the archives currently held on five scattered sites. As well as the City Archives, moved from the Guildhall Basement in 1979 to the former PB Mason's (Wine & Spirits Merchants) offices at the corner of Lowgate and Guildhall Road, large amounts of Hull's archives are to be found in the City Archives overflow store in Trippett Street, the Local Studies Library at the Central Library in Albion Street, the University Archives in the Brynmor Jones Library at Cottingham Road and Hull College's Local History Unit at the James Reckitt Library on Holderness Road. These would all be brought together in a purpose-built Hull History Centre, to be built on part of Mason Street Car Park, so that precious documents, photographs and plans can be kept in a better environment that is controlled for temperature and humidity. They would also be made far more accessible to researchers.

At first sight of the model, plans and elevations, the outline of the proposed building is not particularly eye-catching, having straight walls and a flat roof, but there is a very good reason for this: the air-conditioning equipment needs to be mounted on a flat roof (actually a shallow incline to ensure that rainwater flows away) and the storage chamber on the first floor needs to be rectangular so that the racks can be moved on rails within it. The ground floor would be the public area, with study rooms containing computers and microfiche-readers, a secure manuscript-reading room, and a lecture and seminar theatre, as well as staff offices and a reprographic room. The book bindery would also move here from Chanterlands Avenue Branch Library.

The southern side of the building would be enlivened by a glazed lean-to gallery which at its eastern end becomes an open pergola. Within this would be three "pods" for possible use as kiosk, bookstall and toilets with a baby-changing room. It is envisaged that this gallery would be open to anyone just passing through the site, to encourage the feeling that the building welcomes visitors. The architects have considered the layout of the whole site in its context, and have retained some public parking as well as providing parking for staff and visitors.

One of the Civic Society's concerns is the loss of a large number of car parking spaces. Mason Street is one of the city's largest surface car parks and its 290 spaces are well used both in the daytime and the evening, when it is filled by patrons of the New Theatre. We believe that this matter cannot just be brushed aside by the City Council and must be addressed if the city centre is to continue to attract evening visitors.

However, we are very keen to support the plan for the Hull History Centre. It would make Hull's scattered archives and photographic records much more accessible and improve their conservation. It would also be a real city-centre attraction for the growing number of people who are actively researching local and family history.

John Scotney.



## Readers' Letters

Dear Ken,

*I have just read the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative booklet and write to congratulate all concerned for an excellent production. It provides an authentic conspectus of the history of those formulative years in an agreeable and artistic presentation. The writers of the text deserve special praise for the quality of their writing and painstaking research into the history and to find illustrations by way of documents and photographs. It is rewarding (especially to me, though a little embarrassed - though pleased! - to see my name so often) to be reminded how much the Society accomplished in those formulative years.*

*Thanks to everyone for your efforts, and best wishes for the next forty years!*

Sincerely,

Donald Campbell

### Castle Street Improvement

Three lanes each way are needed on the A63 trunk road between Myton Bridge and the Daltry Street flyover. There is strong local support for this being achieved by having two lanes each way in a 'cut and cover' tunnel and one lane each way on the surface. Is this the best solution? Detailed plans of the scheme are not known. Perhaps the tunnel would only extend from Myton Bridge to the Ferensway roundabout. The Highways Agency has said that one lane in each direction would be kept open during construction work. This implies that a two-lane tunnel would be constructed along one carriageway while the other carriageway remained open. Then, with a new two-lane road constructed above the new two-lane tunnel, work would start on a second two-lane tunnel.

Land between Blanket Row and Castle Street would be needed for a construction compound. Cables and pipes, which would be cut by the tunnels, would have to be diverted before tunnelling work started. Initially, work might start on the southern carriageway of Castle Street, near Queen Street. For about 200 metres, steel sheet piles would be driven into the ground down the middle of the centre reservation and at the south side of the road. The ground would then be excavated and work would start on constructing a reinforced concrete tunnel. Gradually, more steel sheet piles would be driven in, more excavation done and pile removal would start at the Queen Street end as the tunnel lengthened. If the tunnel was planned to continue to Daltry Street, the Ferensway roundabout would be out of action while the tunnel was being constructed across it.

When the plans and construction details are published, there will be objections. Some drivers would prefer the road being widened to three lanes in each direction. Some people will be concerned about the noise. A public enquiry would probably be held. If the scheme was given the go ahead, it would have to compete for funding with other road schemes. Because of the expense, other schemes might be regarded as better value for money. Because the probability of the 'cut and cover' tunnel scheme being funded is so low, it might be wise to consider other solutions to the Castle Street problems.

Walter Houlton.



Photo: JD Scotney

### Hull in Bloom - Congratulations to Ye Olde White Hart

*This event is now a city-wide competition jointly sponsored by Hull City Council and Hull Civic Society to encourage the contribution gardeners make to our environment. It was initiated by Hull Civic Society many years ago as the "Old Town Floral Town." competition for the best floral display in the Old Town. We still sponsor and, most years, are represented on the panel of judges for this category. This year's Old Town winner was Ye Olde White Hart, Silver Street and anyone who has seen their beautiful floral display will understand*

*why, though closely rivalled by other contestants in the Old Town.. All the participants in all the categories around the city have done a splendid job of brightening up our environment and we congratulate everyone who took the trouble to participate.*

Editor.

## Civic Society Officers and Committee 2005 – 2006

### Officers

President	Mike Killoran mike@princesquay.co.uk	(day) 586622
Vice President	Donald Campbell	343588
Chairman, Youth Officer & STAND	Adam Fowler <a href="mailto:hullef@hullef.karoo.co.uk">hullef@hullef.karoo.co.uk</a>	(day) 324223 (home) 01430-810425
Vice Chairman, Planning and general projects	John Netherwood john@netherwood.karoo.co.uk	653657
Honorary Treasurer & Newsletter Assistant	Ernie Cudbertson cudbertson@civic.karoo.co.uk	228629
Honorary Secretary	Ken Baker <a href="mailto:kbaker@goodwin-centre.org">kbaker@goodwin-centre.org</a>	224767 or 594348 Mobile: 07766 654955

### Committee (including co-opted members)

Planning Sec, CAAC, Good Marks, Minutes	Cynthia Fowler	377434
Planning applications reports	Walter Houlton shelagh@houlton1930.fsnet.co.uk	375605
Planning, Museums, Transport, Industrial Heritage	Colin Cooper	863339
Newsletter Editor, Planning, Transport	John Scotney john.scotney@talk21.com	492822
Hull Festival, Open House CALM & marketing	Ian Loge ian@ianloge.karoo.co.uk	07868 798550
Planning and general	Malcolm Sharman	561611
Hull Festival, Open House & marketing	Karl Loge karl@ianloge.karoo.co.uk	
Planning and general	Stuart Spandler stuart.spandler@virgin.net	223063

---

### **Application for membership of HULL CIVIC SOCIETY**

Full Membership subscription £7.00 per annum

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please send with your subscription to our new address:

E. Cudbertson, Hon. Treasurer, c/o Suite 25, Hull Business Centre, Guildhall Road, Hull, HU1 1HJ