

HULL CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September 2011



Hull History Centre (Photo: JD Scotney)

In this Issue: Programme 2011-12, Good Mark: Tower Cinema Domes, Chill Wind in the High Street, It's Never Dull in 'ull, Steve Shearsmith Award 2010, Note re Regeneration, New Earswick, Looking Good Award, Landscape Maintenance on the A63 and A1033, Planning & Buildings, Mike Killoran, South Cave, St Matthew's, Corporate Members, Officers & Committee.

£1.50 where sold

Public Meetings 2011 – 2012

All meetings are at the Royal Hotel, Ferensway, on Mondays at 7.30 pm (unless otherwise stated). All meetings are open to non-members.

10th October – “Beyond South Riding”: the life and ideas of Winifred Holtby – *Jill Crowther*.

14th November – “A walk around the boundary of Yorkshire from Hull back to Hull” – *Chris & Roger Sewell (Yorkshire Ridings Society)*.

12th December – “The History of the City Centre of Hull from the Georgian Suburbs to the 21st century” – *Paul Schofield*.

9th January – “History of Sculcoates” – *Hull & District Local History Research Group*.

13th February – “Hull Rocks! Geology in the City” – *Mike Horne, Secretary of Hull Geological Society*.

12th March – **Annual General Meeting at 7.00 pm** followed by: “St Stephen’s Before and After” – *Tony Steadman*.

14th April 7.30 pm at the Carnegie Heritage Centre, Anlaby Road – “The Hull Battalions” – *Charles Dinsdale, Military Historian*.

An opportunity for members to visit (or revisit) the delightful former library next to West Park main entrance. Parking is available immediately behind the Carnegie, reached via the Walton Street entrance to West Park.

Spring & Summer Visits

Mon 2nd July – Walk: “Hull’s Industrial Heritage, Part 2: Wincolmllee and the Groves”, led by Colin Cooper.

Visit to Hornsea Museum - the date of this and any other visits will be announced in the February Newsletter.

Good Mark: Tower Cinema Domes by O. Toffolo & Sons Ltd

Hull Civic Society's Good Mark goes to O. Toffolo & Son Ltd., Temple Street, Hull for the restoration of the twin domes on the Tower Cinema. The ornate Edwardian building, designed by H Percival Binks and is Grade II Listed, was opened on 1st June, 1914 and closed as a cinema in 1978. Sadly today the building looks forlorn and neglected but the restoration of the twin domes gives hope that someone will eventually save the building and restore it to its former glory.

The question of the condition of the twin domes on the Tower Cinema hovered over a number of years as the prohibitive costs of deciding whether to replace or repair the domes proved a daunting task for owners of the building. Eventually wear and tear made the decision inevitable; the old domes had to be removed as they were close to collapse. The domes were removed in 2003 and replacement domes put in place, but they were not acceptable for a Listed Building. The situation was eventually solved when Hull City Council launched legal action against the owners of the building. O.Toffolo & Son Ltd. were contracted to recreate the twin domes on the building.

Originally the domes had a timber frame fitted together like an umbrella, covered by metal mesh and finally a covering of cement render before Italian glass mosaic tiles were fitted. It became clear that the original construction could not be replicated; therefore a different solution had to be found for the reinstatement of the domes. The new construction had to be of a lighter structure from a weight point of view, in order to safeguard the structure of the main building.

The new domes were built in fibreglass, with 16 separate segments of fibreglass bolted together and treated like a boat hull, a structure which was very strong but very light. The skills of a Specialist Mosaicist were employed and he created the original design in reverse on paper and glued the new mosaic face down to this paper. The paper sheets with the mosaic attached were then cut to manageable sizes, boxed up and sent up to Hull. O. Toffolo & Son Ltd then glued the sheets to the fibreglass domes, soaked off the paper, grouted and sealed.



The former Tower Cinema, Anlaby Road, and a close-up of one of the new domes 13.4.2011. (Photo: JD Scotney)

The firm belongs to Hull's unique group of craftsmen who have been established many years and quietly get on with their specialist trade. On the subject of the name of the firm, we were told, *“The “O” is for Osvaldo, the man who started the company back in 1916. He has caused us many problems over the years as we always gets filed under “O” in customers’ accounts systems and are frequently accused of being of Irish descent, but we feel obliged to retain his initial, in much the same way as Mr Smith remembers his nephew But seriously, we either go the whole hog or just call ourselves Toffolo.”*

We congratulate O.Toffolo & Son Ltd., for bringing the landmark domes back to life.

Cynthia Fowler.

There’s a chill wind in the High Street

The number of empty shops in Hull city centre, particularly Whitefriargate, but also in many other city streets, is becoming a real concern here in Hull and in other cities too. What can be done to redress the situation, or is it too late? It seems that the same question has been exercising the minds of government ministers, too, right the way up to the Prime Minister, who has appointed Mary Portas the ‘Queen of Shops’ to look at the problem. She is to undertake an independent review with the objective of promoting the development of more prosperous and diverse High Streets.

There are plenty of views on the reasons for the demise of the High Street. Some blame the supermarkets, others out-of-town shopping centres, then the internet came along and now it's the recession. But if we're honest, haven't we all shopped in a supermarket, been to an out-of-town shopping centre, bought stuff on the internet, or banked on line? So are we all to blame?



Whitefriargate. Photo: JD Scotney

Street vendor meanwhile faces the high cost of rents, business rates, high 'buy-in' cost, wage increases and the rising cost of city-centre car parking, which acts as a deterrent. They have to rely on passing trade for their profits and lately find that trade is no longer passing. Add to that, many High Streets now look alike, with chain stores with their own brands and 'Anytown' shop fronts.

So perhaps we've fallen out of love with our High Streets, as they are seen as devoid of variety and local distinctiveness and so no longer meet our needs. What then can be done? What role does the High Street have to play in the 21st century and is it something that we, the consumers and local residents influence? There are bodies that are interested in **your** views and you can find out more about the review on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills website and see what the early feedback reveals. You can also let us know your thoughts via our website and we'll pass your views on.

However, I suppose that this is a fairly shallow way of looking at the problem, because there are plenty of other factors that influence our shopping trends, such as convenience, free parking and the offer of a wide variety of goods at a reasonable price all under one roof. Throw in a petrol station too, with cheaper fuel and we are set for the week. The High

Colin McNicol

It's Never Dull in 'ull

Having recently returned to Hull after three years working abroad, I was asked to offer my views on the city, and place it in the wider context of those cities I have lived and worked in.

Hull is a city that I always look forward to returning to with great pleasure. It has a long, rich and diverse economic and social history that is all too easily overlooked. Instead, many people point to other cities and extol their virtues, and in doing so, fail to notice and take advantage of the great many assets of our own city.

Social, Economic and Quality of Life Assets

Being relatively small and flat with a compact city centre, Hull is easy to get around. Within a short space of time, we can move from the Old Town with its museums, narrow alleys and streets of medieval origin, into the



“Splendid Georgian and Victorian buildings”

Left: The Charterhouse (1780) Right: Former banks on Lowgate (Midland, 1870 and National Provincial, 1900). (Photos JD Scotney)

city centre with its myriad of shops and shopping centres, and then on to what is a stunning river and wonderful water-front. Such diversity within such a small area is a truly remarkable asset for any city.

Unlike many cities, such as Plymouth, Hull is fortunate not to have been blighted by a modern concrete city centre. We still have many splendid Georgian and Victorian buildings rich in architectural detail - we only have to turn our heads upwards, or stand back and spend a little time looking

around to realise the heritage the city has to offer. There are old pubs, each with their own fascinating history, and an increasing number of coffee shops and restaurants offering an expanding range of cuisines - if only some of the “ethnic” restaurants could relocate from the edge of the city centre and into its heart. To this we can add an art gallery, theatres, a music venue, several cinemas, and a sporting arena.

Moreover, Hull does not have the hectic pace associated with many other cities. Instead, we are in the fortunate position that the city permits a work-life balance that many in the country envy and strive for. We do not face the long and arduous commuting times found in other cities, we do not have the rush to escape work and the city on a Friday, and nor do we have to endure long journeys to get away for the weekend. Not only does this give us more leisure time, but we are surrounded by beautiful countryside, together with some of the best coastline in the country - all on our doorstep.



“Surrounded by beautiful countryside” – a group walking in Brantingham Dale. (Photo: JD Scotney)

Hull is also a very friendly and livable city. Hullites are, on the whole, very warm, sociable, and tolerant - as a city of seafarers, many residents have been exposed to the world, and have a respect and understanding of its many visitors.

We are blessed in Hull’s geographic location with its very close links to continental Europe. Not only are we a coastal city, we benefit from having a

major port, and are able to take advantage of this proximity and capitalise on the economic opportunities that this permits. We have a constant flow of visitors from Europe, many of whom are affluent, and seek exactly the kind of cultural and historical experiences that cities like Hull can offer.

The city has a population with considerable skills - even if we do not always realise this. We have a strong skill base in freight-handling and the marine industries, to which we can add engineering, once the construction and assembly of wind turbines moves to the port. We have skills in chemicals and healthcare, including vitamins, over-the-counter medicines, and wound management. We also have the skills that a large hospital and a fine university with a solid academic tradition bring. Hull's people are hardworking, open, receptive and resilient. At the same time, these skills are being supplemented by the influx of new people, bringing their ideas and new sources of entrepreneurship.

Hull's Marina, together with the city's position on the bank of one of the UK's major rivers and bounded by superb countryside, offers an ideal location for many businesses. Such a setting is especially appealing to the growing number of "lifestyle" companies who want to move from more built-up towns and cities, to take advantage of the enhanced quality of life that Hull and its region offer.



The Marina – “an ideal location for many businesses” (Photo: JD Scotney)

Hull's Potential in Perspective

Hull is blessed with a wealth of social, quality of life, and economic assets that we can capitalise on - not to mention the political assets that accrue from having several local politicians who are highly placed in Westminster. We have a vibrant city with a population that has considerable knowledge and skills, a rich history, a thriving port, and good proximity to Europe. Of course, we need to do more and build upon what we already have, but we also need to be careful not to undervalue Hull and its many assets, or point to other cities and think “if only” we had the same winning ingredients. In fact, we have assets in abundance, many of which

other cities could only wish for. Hull's long history, extending back to medieval times, gives it an abundant architecture and heritage that almost any city in the U.S. would be proud of. Indeed, any American city would consider itself most fortunate if it had only one of Hull's many historic buildings, and the cachet that this would bring would almost certainly guarantee it everlasting tourism!

These facts help put Hull's potential in perspective. We need to take stock of the many assets with which the city is endowed, and also draw inspiration from how other cities across the UK, and the rest of the world, have made best use of their assets in making economic development happen.

What can my perspective on Hull add to that of others? With a background in Economics and Economic Development, and as a consultant advising cities and major businesses on how they can realise their economic strengths and develop their competitive advantage, I have been very privileged that my work has allowed me to live in a number of cities including New York, Auckland and Vancouver, as well as to have travelled to such diverse places as Albuquerque, New Mexico and Halifax, Canada. Having been uniquely fortunate in having spent considerable time in cities across Australia, New Zealand, Canada, America, and even India, I feel that my experiences help to put the city of Hull into wider perspective, and enable me to say that Hull has a potential that rivals that of many cities in the world.

Of course, nothing will compare to my being able to look at the Manhattan skyline every night, the wonder of living next to the Sky Tower in Auckland, or walking out each morning only to be greeted by the spectacular sight of Vancouver's mountains. At the same time, little can match the awe I feel on seeing the remarkable suspension bridge spanning the expanse of the river Humber - a vista that always manages to take my breath away.

My wife and I find Hull a delightful city to return to, and are pleased to be able to consider it home. Having spent seven of the last ten years working abroad, I hope we are in a better position to appreciate Hull and its many

assets. Of course the city could be more vibrant, and an even better place to live; fortunately many share my appreciation of Hull, and have taken up the challenge to promote its economic development and prosperity.

Having lived and worked in many cities in many other countries, I can truly say that it is certainly never dull in ‘ull.

Dr. Salinder Supri

Steve Shearsmith Award 2010 – Hull History Centre

The winner of the Steve Shearsmith Award for “Best Hull Civic Society Good Mark” of 2010 is the Hull History Centre, awarded on 20th July 2011. The History Centre, designed by architects Pringle, Richards and Sharratts, earned a Good Mark award in August 2010 both for its adventurous design and for the concept of the project to unite the City Archives, University of Hull Archives and Local Studies Library collections.



Left: Presentation of the Steve Shearsmith Award at the History Centre. Left to right: Judy Berg and Martin Taylor receive the award from John Scotney and Steve Shearsmith on 20th July 2011.



The History Centre has made this wonderful collection of books, documents and maps accessible to a wider public and stores them in a way which will preserve them in a more controlled environment than was

previously possible. There are also well-equipped rooms for conservation work and rooms for public meetings. In the public area, the History Centre provides much better facilities than previously available for visitors and local residents to carry out their own research into local and family history both in documentary form and through the internet.

The award is in the form of a fine silver salver, hallmarked London 1763. It was bought for, or donated to the Hull Club, a society founded in 1840 by some of Hull's most eminent businessmen. Names of members include Cuthbert Brodrick, W.B. Jalland, J. Burstall, Henry Cooper, Zachariah Pearson, Joseph Robinson Pease, Charles Henry Wilson, Lord Londesborough and many other eminent local men. The original inscription in the centre of the salver was erased and replaced by the Hull coat of arms with a floral surround and the words, "Hull Club". When the club was disbanded in 1904, the salver passed into private hands.

Steve Shearsmith inherited it through his mother's side of the family and felt that it was appropriate for the salver to return to the public realm again, so he offered it to Hull Civic Society as an award to be presented annually for the best Good Mark of the year. It is mounted on a modern wooden display base with shields around the edge of the base, for engraving the recipient's name.

Hull Civic Society consider the Hull History Centre to be a worthy recipient of this year's Steve Shearsmith Award.

John Scotney

Note re Regeneration

Over recent years Hull's city centre has undergone radical changes. The completion of the new St. Stephen's shopping and leisure complex alongside a new transport interchange has expanded the city's retail offer and provided an improved entry point. On the waterfront, the development of Humber Quays, Hull's new business and international trade district, has created a professional quarter which is home to some high-profile companies. Other developments are projected, in the Fruit Market and Albion Square areas and on the East Bank of the River Hull, despite the



Humber Quays development, overlooking the Marina. (Photo: JD Scotney)

unfavourable economic climate which, in Hull as elsewhere, has recently retarded investment and slowed the pace of change. These multiple developments have intensified the need for improved connectivity between the newly regenerated and the historic parts of the city centre. A response to the need lies in creating and

promoting exciting streetscapes and pedestrian routes. The aim of such measures is to render

pedestrian flow not simply within certain areas, but throughout the city easy, enjoyable and safe. But the task is not simple: stimulating the movement of people in desirable directions across an urban space is one of the challenges with which urban geographers have long sought to grapple.

For the city's comprehensive regeneration it is of prime importance to develop a vibrant, thriving and interconnected centre which not only serves the purposes of those who work or shop there, but also is sufficiently diverse to extend activities and the presence of participants beyond usual working hours into the evenings and weekends. Here the role of tourism and the potential of the Old Town, or *Altstadt* to give it a European reference, are key. Hull needs to emulate so many of the major cities of continental Europe, exploiting each and all of the city's component parts, and above all the attractions of its Old Town. These attractions include not only The Deep and the Museums Quarter, but also and especially the buildings and locations of great historical interest that continue to lie in the heart of the Old Town, from the Beverley Gate along Whitefriargate through Trinity Square and the historic market area and so to the High Street and the river. The challenge is to join all this together in terms of popular movement and awareness.

The westward shift of retail activity brought about by the opening of St. Stephen's means that the Old Town is in danger both of losing its own traditional *raison d'être* and of failing to furnish essential links between, on the one hand, the city's new commercial outlets and, on the other, its

historic districts and the attractions that lie there: districts which, as the medieval street pattern has been preserved intact, are of national importance. The effective forging of such links is vital to the local community's well-being, in so far as they serve to promote social vibrancy and economic prosperity into the future. It is towards the attaining of such an objective that the present proposal seeks to contribute.

In sum, we aim through the proposed town trails to provide a set of vehicles and incentives designed to join together the multiple components of the new and the historic Hull, such that local people as well as visitors to one of the city's features would be drawn to explore other parts of what it has to offer, and thereby enrich their own knowledge and understanding whilst furthering the regeneration of the historic city itself.

John Netherwood.

New Earswick – York's Garden Village

Today, tourists love York's little alleys and courts and its picturesque half-timbered buildings, but at the end of the 19th century these housed the poorest of York's citizens in appalling conditions. This was revealed in a survey of the poorer districts of York conducted in 1897 and 1898 by Benjamin Seebohm Rowntree and his team of researchers, inspired by similar studies in London and Newcastle. The report, "Poverty: a Study of Town Life" was published in 1901 and concluded that as many as 30% of York's families earned an income below the minimum required to cover basic food, clothing, shelter and fuel needs.

Seebohm was the third son of Joseph Rowntree (1834-1925), the prominent cocoa and confectionery manufacturer, in whose business he worked after completing his university education. Joseph, a Quaker, had always considered that providing the best possible working conditions made good business sense (for its impact on workers' productivity) as well as being a moral imperative. This was reflected in the design and facilities provided at his new Cocoa Factory at Haxby, opened in 1890.

In response to the poverty Seebohm's report revealed, Joseph Rowntree devoted his attention to improving housing for the poor of York. Raymond Unwin, a planner, and Barry Parker, an architect, were engaged to draw up a master plan, completed in 1902, for a garden village to be called New Earswick. Building began the same year and in December 1904 ownership

was placed in the hands of the Joseph Rowntree Village Trust. Besides managing New Earswick and other housing in York, the trust conducted research into social problems. In 1986, management of accommodation became the responsibility of the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust and research into social problems continued through the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which, according to its website, seeks “to understand the root causes of social problems, to identify ways of overcoming them, and to show how social needs can be met in practice”.

Also created in December 1904 were the Joseph Rowntree Charity Trust and Joseph Rowntree Social Services Trust, which work independently from the other two organisations. Though

The idea of employers providing better housing goes back to Robert Owen’s New Lanark (1785) and Titus Salt’s Saltaire (1859) developed in reaction to poor housing conditions and drink-sodden lifestyles in Britain’s overcrowded industrial cities.

There was also a tradition of landowners improving housing by building estate villages. The virtues of a village lifestyle, with houses set in gardens where tenants could grow their own food, were also expounded by the Arts & Crafts Movement, led by William Morris and these trends came together in the less formal style of garden villages developed towards the end of the 19th century, with examples of garden villages at Port Sunlight, on the Wirral, begun in 1888 by William Hesketh Lever (later Viscount Leverhulme) to house his soap factory workers and Bourneville, Birmingham, built from 1895 around the Cadbury’s chocolate factory. Here, half of the housing was available for rent by the general public.

The creation of new settlements for general housing, rather than just employees was also an aim of the Garden City Movement promoted by Ebenezer Howard in his book, *“Tomorrow: a Peaceful Path to Real Reform”* (1898), itself inspired by ideas he had seen and read in the USA.



Allotments in New Earswick
(Photo: JD Scotney)

Joseph Rowntree's plans for New Earswick were influenced by these ideas and its designers, Parker & Unwin drew on their experience of designing New Earswick for Ebenezer Howard's Garden City project of Letchworth, begun in 1904.

Our guided tour was led by Mr Brian Jardine of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Before setting out, he outlined the history of New Earswick, where, incidentally, he grew up. Our meeting point was the Folk Hall (1907), New Earswick's social centre. Here there are meeting rooms, a theatre and a café. When first completed it was also used for Quaker meetings and worship by the Methodists and Anglicans before they built their own premises elsewhere in the village. After outlining the history of New Earswick, we were taken out to see the village for ourselves.



Hull Civic Society members outside the Folk Hall, New Earswick. Photo: JD Scotney

The earliest houses, which we saw on Station Avenue, dated from 1902 to 1904 and stood in large gardens. Originally they had coal fires, earth closets and a bath under the scullery table. They can be identified by the absence of chimneys, removed when they were modernized and provided with bathrooms and central heating. Some of the first houses had foundation problems and we were shown the flats which replaced one group of houses in the 1960s – not, as Mr Jardine commented, a good period for sympathetic scale or design!

The next oldest houses were built with bathrooms from the start and still have their chimneys. 260 of the houses are grade 2 listed buildings and the pre-1980 part of New Earswick is a conservation area.



Above: Houses in Station Avenue (1904) and Chestnut Grove (1909-1915)
Below: shops in Haxby Rd & Chestnut Grove (Photos: JD Scotney)



Modernisation of the earliest houses began as a pilot scheme in the 1950s and continued into the 1960s. Many of these houses are now on their third modernisation, with window-replacement and dry-lining of external walls. Lobbies have been added where houses have no hall and garages have been provided. Some of these are on the perimeter roads, but residents prefer garages within sight of their houses.

Apart from Haxby Road (the main spine) and Station Avenue, which led to Earswick Station, closed with the Beverley to York railway line in November 1965, most streets are named after trees and shrubs and every house originally had an apple and a pear tree in the garden.

Next, we walked along traffic-free Chestnut Grove (1909-1915), with a slight detour to see the shops on Haxby Road. Most of these have accommodation above. The shop rents have been kept a little below the commercial rate to ensure that the shopkeepers can afford to maintain their local service in the village.

There is no pub in New Earswick (though there is one 50 yards outside the boundary) and it would require the agreement of a majority of all the residents for the shops to sell alcohol, but the Folk Hall has a catering licence.

Also on Haxby Road is the primary school. Rowntree asked the council for a primary school to be built as part of the development of New Earswick, but there was some resistance to the proposal on the grounds that there were other schools within walking distance. An agreement was eventually reached and Joseph Rowntree designed the school himself to a higher standard (14 sq. ft floor space per pupil) than was generally used at the time. By paying the salary of two extra teachers, Rowntree ensured a better ratio of teachers to pupils and smaller class sizes than usual. Opened in 1912, it was not until 1942 that the local education authority's standards equalled those at New Earswick Primary School. The foundation still makes a grant each year for some items not covered by the council Education Department's budget. In 1942, the Joseph Rowntree Secondary School was opened at the northern edge of the village. After construction of new premises under the Building Schools for the Future programme, the original buildings were demolished in 2009.



Woodland Place (Photo: JD Scotney)

Woodland Place was pointed out to us as the first properties for which a pioneering Shared Ownership scheme was instituted. Until 1980 all housing in New Earswick was for rent, but when council tenants were given the “Right to Buy” under the 1980 housing Act, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation decided to

experiment with this idea. Tenants can now own a variable percentage of the value of the house and pay the balance as rent. They can increase in stages from 25% up to 100%, but they can also sell back all or part of their

share of the ownership if necessary, to avoid repossession if they find themselves in difficult financial circumstances. When any house owner wishes to sell to move away, the house is bought back by the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust, so that housing stock is not lost onto the open market.

Another pioneering development, started in 1990 by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation is Hartrigg Oaks, on the north-western edge of New Earswick. After a study of the health effects on elderly people of moving house, trustees have developed a retirement village, modelled on the Kendal Corporation's 13 retirement communities in various parts of the United States, which are based on Quaker values.



Hartrigg Oaks social & medical centre and bungalows. (Photos: JD Scotney)

The Hartrigg Oaks website describes it as a “retirement village enabling people aged 60 plus to remain independent and live life to the full in a vibrant and socially active community”. This involves providing care and support when needed, allowing residents to remain independent and live life to the full. When someone applies to become a resident their needs are assessed and if Hartrigg Oaks is right for them, they buy the lease of a bungalow and have access to all the social and medical facilities on the site. Although the Hartrigg Oaks bungalows are beyond the means of most New Earswick families, care is also delivered from Hartrigg Oaks to elderly residents living in the village.

We were shown an earlier form of sheltered housing, dating from 1946: the old people's bungalows in Lime Tree Avenue, one of the streets to the west of Haxby Road. Each bungalow had a telephone link to the nearby warden's house.

Most of the houses in the north-western part of the village date from the 1920s and those in the south-west date from the 1950s. These were built with subsidies as part of the government's general house-building programme.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has always conducted experiments in new techniques and we saw some Swedish-design flats which were built with electric underfloor heating. This was not very satisfactory and their central heating has been converted to gas. Another, more successful experiment was the "lifetime homes" in which there is level front door access and wider doors for wheelchairs, controls that can be reached from a wheelchair, room on the staircase for a stair lift, room for a shower in the ground floor toilet and window-sills low enough for a seated person to see out of the window. The most recent development (2010) has been energy-efficient houses in Elm Tree Mews. After evaluation of actual efficiency of the first houses, new prototype houses with modifications based on the study's findings were opened in June 2011.

After more than a century of pioneering work in providing good but affordable housing in an attractive environment, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation is continuing to set a socially-responsible example that I am sure its founder would approve of.

We are very grateful to Brian Jardine for giving us such an interesting and thought-provoking tour.

John Scotney.

"LOOKING GOOD" AWARD AUGUST 2011

To: HULL BID (Business Improvement District), which currently works for and on behalf of the businesses in the city centre is primarily concerned with the overall look of the street scene. BID has worked consistently to positively improve the quality of the city centre environment since its inception in 2006. However, there is much more to their work than simple cosmetics.

The BID team of five staff is led by city centre manager Kathryn Shillito and is supported by 740 businesses. This represents 81% of city centre concerns who pay 1% on top of their business rates and these

businesses can directly influence the way the money is spent, whilst enjoying the benefits of the work of an effective operational team with clearly defined priorities. These priorities include:

- Safety and security
- Marketing events
- Cleaning and maintenance
- Promoting the night-time economy

Businesses can be steered in the right direction to aid safety and security and two support officers are BID's eyes and ears on the street. Dedicated PCSO's make businesses feel more protected and 5,000 extra police hours have been funded. BID holds a regular Security Forum. Throughout the year events are devised to increase footfall, interest and demand.

Christmas lights and seasonal celebrations are an obvious example but Heritage Open Days and the popular Fashion Week cater for a broad spectrum of tastes. Food and the evening economy have been bolstered by the YUM Food Festival – the Hull Dine Week and the eye catching EAT brochure profiling the best food establishments in the city was funded by BID. Hull Music and Poetry Festival, the Hull Comedy Festival and the Sea Shanty Festival weekend are all sponsored in part by BID and add greatly to the cultural and economic life of the city.

BID is not only innovative in producing events but is effective in terms of communication, organisation and attention to detail. 6,000 bits of graffiti have been removed! 3,700 items of street furniture have been painted and pavements cleansed of chewing gum! Empty and unsightly units have been covered. The overall impact of these measures is to lift the mood of shoppers and enable all to share in a beneficial sense of order and wellbeing.

HULL BID initiatives have played a large part in creating a feeling of security and confidence that comes from being in a city centre which is obviously cared for and thus one which engenders a strong sense of civic pride.

This Award is for a job well done and for a provision that is vital to the commercial success of the city centre. Your work has not gone unappreciated – long may it continue.

Malcolm Sharman

How to Give a Bad Impression - landscape maintenance on the A63 (Clive Sullivan Way) and the A1033 (Hedon Road).

The Situation:

The Highways Agency has stopped all ‘amenity’ maintenance, limiting grass cutting to what is necessary for roundabout direction signs to remain visible. In the countryside, this move towards roadside verges having a more “natural”, less manicured appearance is good for wildlife and gives a great deal of visual pleasure to drivers. However, in the urban environment, visitors coming into Hull from North Sea Ferries might be forgiven for thinking they had landed in a ‘third world’ country. The neglected, weed-grown verges of the A1033 and A63 do not give the impression of entering a prosperous city. Instead it only confirms popular and uniformed negative myths about our city.

The Background:

Clive Sullivan Way opened forty years ago, the new Hedon Road in 2003. Both are very well designed and form potentially spectacular entrances to our city with views of the River Humber, docks, Marina and the Old Town. It has been a disappointment that maintenance has never been to a satisfactory standard, particularly on the roundabouts.

Fortunately, there are basically good working relations between Hull City Council, Hull Civic Society and the Highways Agency.

A63 Landscape Management Project

A joint working group (Highways Agency, Hull City Council and Hull Civic Society) was set up five years ago to seek improvements to the road’s appearance by planting, grass cutting, litter picking and road sweeping.

Improvements include:

- edge hardening along length of Hedon Rd.
- New barriers from Daltry Street flyover
- re-making the landscaping at St. Andrews Quay
- New fencing along the Humber bank
- improved road sweeping schedules

The most important project is aimed at improving the entry to city at “Northern Gateway” / King George Dock, with

- new planters on the exit from the docks (completed by HCC)
- a complete make-over of the roundabout three months ago - at the moment this is not being maintained;

- visual improvement to derelict land to North of roundabout (under discussion);
- an eventual “Welcome to Hull” sculpture in the centre of the roundabout.
- Hull City Council to maintain all city verges and planting to very high quality along 40 mph sections.

Points for Consideration

- Hedon Road (A1033) and Clive Sullivan Way (A63) form a key artery of the city.
- This road is the first and last view of our city for about 1,000,000 ferry passengers per year.
- It is a terrible advert for what the city has to offer and reflects (wrongly) on Hull City Council.
- Many complaints are received by the Highways Agency, Hull City Council, Hull Civic Society and as letters in the Hull Daily Mail.
- The A63 (Clive Sullivan Way) and A1033 (Hedon Road) should be made to look as good as any other of the city’s dual carriageways.
- The road is not a motorway but an ‘urban boulevard’.
- We need to establish an enforceable specification of quality and service level agreements.
- By not maintaining the new Northern Gateway roundabout considerable (about £100,000) public financial investment is being squandered.
- East Riding Council maintains grass on A1064 Beverley Road, right up to the kerb – a 60 mph road.
- Ferriby interchange is still being maintained, with closely cut banks, verges and roundabouts (observed this week).

John Netherwood (2 Aug 2011)

Planning and Buildings

Old Town

Two re-submitted applications have again been refused: the scheme for a tall block of 64 flats overshadowing Blaydes House at the corner of High St and Alfred Gelder St and an application to retain the decking at the front of the Old Corn Exchange pub next to Holy Trinity church. The second refusal is admittedly a retrospective one for work already

carried out (something planning committees often take exception to), but the general opinion in the Civic Society committee is that the decking looks quite attractive. Mid-August brought an application to turn 52 High St (next to Oriel House) into a restaurant. This is a 19th century office with a 17th century warehouse behind and has been empty for some years since its renovation.



52 High St (Photo: JD Scotney)

City Centre

Manor Properties received permission in early August for alterations to the former Co-operative store in Jameson St (next to BHS). These include ground floor display windows and a glass canopy over the entrance, a glazed screen from 1st to 4th floor at the Jameson St / Bond St corner, replacement upper floor windows and change of use to offices.

In early June, there was an application to build a 4-storey block of flats at Theatre Mews, Egginton St, the little cul-de-sac tucked away between John St and Freetown Way.

The owners of the Townhouse Hotel on Albion St (next to the library), submitted an application in early August to turn it into a “house in multiple occupation” for student accommodation. This is rather a come-down for a fine building, but perhaps better than being empty and boarded up.

Nearby, the scaffolding is being removed from around the Wilberforce Health Centre at the corner of Albion St and Story St, revealing the cream, grey and red panels, some of which stand out from the main surface, glazed only on their narrow sides.

East

Mount Pleasant Urban Regeneration Ltd received permission in mid-June to redevelop the site on the northern side of Holderness Rd between Mount Pleasant and Burleigh St with a superstore (rumoured to be Tesco), filling station, car park and shop units facing onto Holderness Rd. This would be in direct competition with ASDA and other shops on the south-eastern corner of Holderness Rd and Mount Pleasant. Whether this is a genuine scheme or merely land-banking remains to be seen.

Early July brought an application by C. Spencer Ltd of Barrow on Humber to develop the site of the old Spillers flour mill (next to Chapman St Bridge) and the adjacent ADM Cocoa works on Cleveland St and the council waste depot on Dalton St as an “energy works” – a plant that the Hull Daily Mail reported would use a process called “advance gasification” to turn bio-degradable material that now goes into landfill into synthetic gas that could replace natural gas as a fuel for central heating or electricity generation.

Work is in progress on the new Andrew Marvell School on Bilton Grange and the new Winifred Holtby School on Bransholme was due to open “very soon”, at the time of writing and the new Archbishop Sentamu Academy opened at the beginning of the school term in September.

“Crossings”, the new hostel for the homeless in Great Union St, opened its doors for the first time on Tuesday 20th September. In addition to bedrooms, it has training facilities, a café open to the public and a garden, which incorporates the outline of the old Union Dry Dock as a feature.

West

In early July, the planning committee refused Paloma Group’s application of January 2009 to fill in St Andrew’s Dock and erect shops, restaurants and 232 dwellings. The scheme made no provision for renovating the Lord Line Building.

A very broad range of uses is proposed in an amended outline application for development at 84-102 Anlaby Rd, the site at the corner of Park St: financial or professional (A2), restaurant (A3), hotel (C1), residential (C3) and health & fitness (D2). This was approved in early September.

North

71-73 Beverley Rd (formerly Crescent Office Supplies) was the subject of an application in early August for conversion into a place of worship.

Tucked away at the corner of Park Rd and Margaret St (Beverley Rd) work is progressing on a substantial new care home approved last year on the site of an older home for which the existing houses had been converted.

The owner of the listed former School of Architecture, Strand Close, has applied for a time extension for the permission granted a few years ago to build 56 flats in two blocks and convert the listed school building into another 19 flats. We have commented before on this badly neglected piece of Hull's heritage, which the owner appears to have no interest in restoring. This is land banking of the most destructive kind and presents a constant danger to local children, attracted by the derelict building.



Spot the difference! Former Hull School of Architecture in 2005 and 2010. (Photo: JD Scotney)

In early August we wrote in support of an application by CAMRA and the World War Two Civilian Memorial Group to develop the National Picture Theatre site and Swan Inn. The scheme involves building a two-storey microbrewery at the rear of the Swan, an education room, an air-raid shelter, boundary walls, landscaping some car parking and replacing the advertisement hoarding with gates. This was approved by the planning committee in early September, but the same



Swan Inn and the National Picture Theatre. Photo: John Scotney)

committee also approved owners Reid Park Properties' revised plans for a ground floor restaurant with flats above on the same site. A difficult situation! Since then, Reid Park have offered to sell the property to the group for £250,000, and accept a deposit of £25,000, which the group needs to raise immediately to secure the property, as other purchasers have expressed interest.

Permission was given to the Muslim Community to build a rear extension and make some external alterations to the rear elevations of the listed vapour baths in Epworth St, part of Beverley Road Baths complex.

We wrote a letter of strong objection to a developer's plans for unsympathetic alterations to one of Pearson Park's fine listed villas, dating from the 1870s, number 54. The issue, drawn to our attention by the



54 Pearson Park – note the shallow-pitched roof. (Photo: JD Scotney)

Avenues and Pearson Park Residents' Association, was that in order to create seven self-contained flats, the developer proposes to subdivide many of the spacious rooms, alter the internal layout radically and, worse still, replace the shallow-pitched roof that is part of the villa's Italianate style with a much more prominent, steeper-pitched roof with dormer windows.

In mid-September, the first tenants moved into Alexandra House, the student flats created by converting the Fubar (Mainbrace) pub on Beverley Rd and adding a new extension in matching style.

On the Newland Homes site, the first new student house, which faces onto Cottingham Rd, is almost ready and a second one behind it on the site of the swimming pool has reached full height. An application was submitted in late August for a few amendments to the site's road layout and the materials for the 38 private houses to be built as the next phase.

University of Hull received planning permission in early June for a new 4-storey laboratory building, a 2 and 3-storey building to house a cyclotron and a 3 and 4-storey extension to the Wolfson Building.

Two other major projects are still taking shape. The structure of the new Humberside Police Headquarters is now a feature of Clough Road and steelwork for the new school on Hall Rd (opposite Tesco) had reached its full dimensions at the time of writing.

John Scotney

Mike Killoran – Civic Society President 1998-2011

In May 2011, our President, Mike Killoran, retired as manager of Prince's Quay after 17 years' service, during which he has taken a keen and active interest in his adopted city. As manager of one of Hull's largest shopping centres, he has helped to promote Hull in the wider world. He has also been involved in many charitable activities, including Hull Children's University and Dove House Hospice and other local causes.

Since 1998, when he agreed to become our President, he has been more than a figurehead. He has been a regular attender at the Society's public and committee meetings and has contributed many ideas. As a prominent figure in the city, Mike has always sought to promote Hull to employers and decision-makers as well as helping to establish new opportunities for the Society to talk to local businesses and Hull City Council.

Mike is moving back to his native south of England, where I am sure he will do excellent "missionary work" correcting negative ideas of Hull held by people (especially journalists) who have never visited our city!

We are very grateful to Mike for his 13 years' service as an active President of Hull Civic Society and we wish him well in his retirement.

Editor

Visit to South Cave 6th June 2011

On a sunny evening in June, members of Hull Civic Society enjoyed a second guided tour of South Cave, arranged by Colin Cooper and led by members of South Cave Local history Society. On this visit, the itinerary included parts of South Cave not visited on the 2010 tour. Chris Mead has caught the event on camera.



Top: the group in the grounds of Cave Castle. Middle left: House, church and castle gate. Bottom left: Cave Castle. Middle & bottom right: Stylish modern church door and gates. (Photos: Chris Mead)

HULL CIVIC SOCIETY CORPORATE MEMBERS

On 20th July, Hull Civic Society's corporate members were invited to meet each other and members of the Society's committee at the History Centre, where each corporate member received a certificate of membership.

The list of corporate members includes many well-known names and some less often in the public eye, but all of them form a vital part of Hull's economy and we are very grateful for their support of Hull Civic Society.

Nortech Services Ltd
Gelder Kitchen LLP
Baker Tilly,
EYMS Group Ltd
Ingrams Solicitors
Kingston Communications
NSP Group Earle House
St Stephens Shopping Centre
MKM Building Supplies
Wharram Design Ltd
Arco Humberside
Goodwin Trust
Manor Property Group
The Sewell Group
Ben Green & Associates Ltd
Roach Bros.(Curers) Ltd
FRUIT
Hull CVS

For more information about corporate membership, please contact Janet Green, our Corporate Membership Secretary, telephone 01482 589787, or email her at janet@bengreen.karoo.co.uk

St Matthew's Church, Boulevard – a personal comment

St Matthew's is one of Hull's finest surviving Victorian churches, dating from 1870, and a landmark for travellers along Anlaby Road. This year, it was open on the Friday of Heritage Open Days weekend for visitors to see the fine craftsmanship displayed in brickwork, carved stone and woodwork and stained glass. Sadly, visitors also could not fail to see the urgent need for repairs to deal with damp and structural problems. An appeal was launched in July 2011 to raise £64,000, which would earn match-funding from English Heritage. Anyone wishing to become a Friend of St Matthew's and support the campaign should ring Betsy Kitching on (01482) 326701.

John Scotney



St Matthews: the landmark spire, the nave, fine craftsmanship and some serious damp & structural problems.

(Photos: JD Scotney)

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February Newsletter

Please submit items for the February Newsletter by 9th January. to the Editor, John Scotney at: 126 Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RZ or (preferably) e-mailed to john.scotney@talk21.com.

Heritage Open Days

During Heritage Open Days, September 2011, Hull has seen the largest ever number of talks, walks, industrial visits and buildings open to the public. The event has attracted visitors from a surprisingly wide area, many of whom were seeing Hull for the first time or discovering architectural gems in districts they had never been to before.

Hull Civic Society is very grateful for the support received from English Heritage, Hull City Council, Hull BID and many local companies, including Associated British Ports, Crown Paints, Fenner Plc, William Jackson, KC and Prince's Quay. We are also grateful to the many volunteers who acted as attendants in buildings open to the public, gave talks, led walks or worked in the background to make this event a success and especially to Phil Haskins who has co-ordinated all the preparations.

Editor

Application for membership of HULL CIVIC SOCIETY

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

If you are a tax payer, a Gift Aid declaration can make this subscription worth more to Hull Civic Society at no extra cost to yourself. If you would like a Gift Aid form, please tick the box

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Please send with your subscription to our Honorary Treasurer,
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