

HULL CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

May 2012



Brewery House, the Maltings

(Photo: JD Scotney)

In this issue: Programme, Blue Plaque, Heritage Open Days, Good Mark: Brewery House, The Old Town, Jewel of the Avenues, More about George Gilbert Scott junior, As Others See Us, How does the world see Hull? Greetings from York to Hull, Good Mark: Sewell Group Academy, Planning & Buildings, Committee Changes & Committee.

Visit our website at: www.hullcivicsociety.org

Spring & Summer Visits 2012

To give us an idea of numbers, please book in advance with the editor, John Scotney tel. 492822 - or email john.scotney@talk21.com

Mon 21st May, 6.30 p.m. – Boulevard Regeneration Area Walk, led by Hilary Byers. *Meet at Boulevard Village Hall (near Boulevard fountain).*

Mon 11th June, 6.30 p.m. – Archbishop Sentamu Academy & Freedom Centre, Preston Road. *Meet at the Freedom Centre.*

Mon 2nd July, 7 p.m. – Walk: “Hull’s Industrial Heritage, Part 2: Wincolmllee and the Groves”, led by Colin Cooper. *Meet at Blaydes House, High Street.*

Thur 6th to Sun 9th September - Heritage Open Days

Public Meetings 2012-2013

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

Mon. 15th Oct – “Discovering Yorkshire Architecture” – *Ronni Hewer.*
A celebration of the architectural delights of Yorkshire’s less well-known buildings.

Other public meetings are scheduled for 12th Nov & 10th Dec 2012, 14th Jan, 11th Feb, 11th Mar and 15th April 2013.

Events by Other Organisations

Sunday 2nd September (9th September if wet on 2nd), 2.30 pm – Guided tour of Hessle Road Jewish Cemetery, to mark the European Day of Jewish Culture and the bicentenary of the opening of Hessle Rd Jewish Cemetery. (organised by the Hull Jewish community)

Blue Plaque

Hull Civic Society has made a contribution towards the blue plaque which marks the site of Hull’s first synagogue, opened in Posterngate in 1780.

Heritage Open Days Shows More Heritage

The Society's Heritage Open Days event (Sept 6th-9th) is again looking to produce an expanded programme this year, with more buildings openings, events, talks, guided tours and exhibitions than ever before.

New places to visit in the north and east include St Mary's Church in Sculcoates (Fri & Sat 10-2.30pm) and the gardens of Holderness House (Sun 10-4pm) both open for general viewing. Also open for viewing inside after a period of refurbishment is Victoria Cottage in Sutton (Fri & Sat at 10-3pm), and whilst in the village, don't miss Reverend David Clune showing off his bee hives in front of the rectory. Along Hedon Road, we're delighted to be able to feature the Victorian era Hull Prison amongst this year's highlights. A guided tour inside the prison on the Saturday, plus open viewing of their exhibition centre from Thursday to Saturday will give a unique insight into this imposing building.

People on the west of the city will not be disappointed either, with some of the new buildings on offer and guided tours of two of the city's most well-known schools, Hymers College, set on the site of the old Botanical Gardens and the Wilson's Tranby Croft at Hull Collegiate, where visitors will be able to see the room where the infamous Baccarat Scandal of 1890 took place.

Given the success of the commercial programme last year, we will again be featuring a number of local companies in this year's event so if you want to see around the modern port of Hull (www.abports.co.uk), be prepared to book early as these trips were highly popular last year. We're also delighted to be able to feature two of the most iconic structures on Clive Sullivan Way in this year's programme, the environmentally friendly Intertech building (www.intertech.co.uk) with its two 'egg whisk' wind turbines and the visually striking Arco warehouse (www.arco.co.uk). Few people know that Thomas Smith, founder of the firm, Smith and Nephew, had a brother; perhaps even fewer realise that he also established a local firm which continues to this day, a UK leader in the quality paper business. That is the story of George Frederick Smith and the company he set up, GF Smith (www.gfsmith.com).

The University of Hull will again be opening its doors giving visitors a unique chance to see places like the Map Room and the HIVE virtual reality centre. We'll again be having two days of history related talks at

Hull History Centre on Thursday and Friday (6th and 7th) of the open days, so if you want to find out more about murders in Hull's Old Town slums or its worst rogues and rascals or iron age burial mounds in the East Riding, then come along to these free talks.

Children and families won't be left out either as our popular Heritage Fun Day will again fill Trinity Square on Saturday 8th September. Many of the previous year's guided tours will also be returning such as the High Street furniture tour, but we'll also have some new ones with Mike Horne taking people on a geological tour of the city centre and looking at the rocks and stones of the buildings and ground, while Jacky Ward Lomax will be taking people along the continental vision of developer David Garbutt's in the Avenues.

"We are hoping to build on the successful formula of previous years but with a real emphasis on portraying an Open City as well as a series of open buildings. We're hoping that visitors and residents alike will take this opportunity to discover for themselves what a great city we live in," commented Society Chairman John Netherwood.

For more information about the event, see www.hodshull.co.uk

Phil Haskins

Good Mark: Brewery House, the Maltings

The Hull Civic Society's Good Mark goes to Allenby Commercial, 15 Priory Tech Park, Hull, for the renovation of Brewery House at the Maltings in the city centre. A prestigious development spread over four floors totalling some 18,187 square feet of climate controlled office accommodation and dedicated city centre parking. Brewery House completes the final phase of the Maltings development.

Built in 1867 by W. Sissons, originally for the Hull Brewery Company, the former owners, Mansfield Breweries, ceased trading at the Sylvester Street site in 1985 and the building was left to fall into decline for a number of years. Allenby Commercial acquired the property in June 2008 and in August 2009, with Hull-based architects Bird Johnson, began the process of the complete restoration and development of the site. The whole exterior of the grade II listed building including the roof structures, window frames window sills and feature arched carriage openings have



Above & below: Brewery House – rear Courtyard
(Photo: JD Scotney)

all been retained, cleaned and finished to a high standard of decoration. The feature ‘square-hipped’ louvered ventilator on the roof area has been restored and redecorated and the semi-circular bay window on the rear courtyard elevation has been restored including the curved glazing. The brickwork and facings to all elevations have been cleaned and freshly decorated, lifting the appearance of the Victorian brewery building.

New contemporary entrances have been formed at the Sylvester Street and rear courtyard elevations in contrasting grey



coloured steel frames with glazing and automatic doors. The entrance lobbies have original brickwork cleaned and finished with feature windows and doorways retained alongside a contemporary industrial grey profiled metal ceiling and chipped stone effect floor coverings, giving a strong sense of the commercial origins of the

building.

The stairwells are open and light and visibly extend to the roof area, emphasising the scale and height of the building. High quality stainless steel handrails with glazed panels add to the contemporary industrial finish. New lifts take staff and visitors up to, and including, the fourth floor.

On the top floor, original vaulted in-filled ceilings have been retained where possible and the line of the restored pitched roof has in addition conservation-grade Velux skylights, allowing natural light into the roof void. The original steelwork has also been retained with some unusual feature elements including ‘hop pulleys’ which again emphasise the building’s commercial roots in the brewery trade. The original timber roof

posts and beams have been cleaned and restored as non-loadbearing features. The symmetry of the roof space has been restored by installing new locally-sourced timber framing in keeping with the original design. All the perimeter windows have views out onto the Maltings site and successfully reflect the spirit of the area and create a light and airy environment which works effectively with the glazed office partitioning and contemporary office finishes.

Descending floor by floor, the areas are light and spacious and there is a consistency in the careful attention to detail which often showcases original steelwork, columns, door and window features and conceals modern utilities and services. All the finishes are executed to a highly professional standard and the interior decoration is subtle and complementary to the original interiors.

This development is a fine example of balancing the business needs of the modern commercial sector with a listed Victorian commercial property; our congratulations go to Allenby Construction and their highly skilled team, who have produced a quality development of which they should be very proud.

Ian Goodison

The Old Town – Hull’s Great Asset

Hull really has the most fantastic asset in its Old Town, the medieval town that formerly thrived within the city walls and moat. It lies apparently unnoticed and largely unexploited at the heart of the modern city. Perhaps it is taken for granted. However, it's an asset that many other towns and cities would greatly envy. The Old Town has been somewhat knocked about and altered over the years, particularly during the 1970's, when much was demolished.

However, sufficient remains for it to become a distinctive part of the modern city, enough in fact to form a 'destination' that would



Top floor (Photo: JD Scotney)

attract tourists to discover the heritage of our rich past and the many hidden secrets to be found in the narrow twisting lanes.

The main corridor to the Old Town is Whitefriargate, formerly Aldegate, one of Hull's oldest streets, which is, itself, steeped in the history of the city. There are several buildings here that are worthy of highlighting, either for their style, or historical importance. Queens Dock, (originally The Dock, dating from 1775) was Hull's first enclosed dock, developed so that the Crown could collect its legal dues, is now a wonderful public space, along with the buildings on the south side that serve as reminders of Hull's trading past. Similarly, Princes Dock (now Princes Quay) and Humber Dock (now the Marina) have their links to the



Old Town “gems” – left: Crowle House, 41 High St; right: former Neptune Inn, Whitefriargate (Photos: JD Scotney)

former town moat. Lowgate retains its importance in its own right but also as a means of access through to High Street, where there are still many remaining 'jewels in the crown' in the old town of Hull, along with the former access routes (staithe) down to the River Hull where there are several examples of wharves and warehouses dating from the 19th century. The remains of the old North Bridge can still be seen here and the former entry to the Queens Dock, along with Blaydes Shipyard, where the 'Bounty' of the Mutiny on the Bounty fame was built as the 'Bethia'.

There are plans to revive Whitefriargate to its former level of activity and importance to the city and which it is hoped, will act as a catalyst for a revival of the Old Town. In that connection there is also a plan to create a Heritage Trail which is intended to link the various places, people, events and times that shaped the present city, The seeds planted now might take

twenty years to bear fruit but in preparing the ground, these are important first steps. Hull Civic Society is at the forefront of helping to drive these plans forward and it is hoped that members, friends and the public will use their contacts and voices to support the efforts of the City Council and their other partners who are working to make a difference, even in these harsh economic times.

Colin McNicol

'Jewel of the Avenues'

The campaign to protect the setting of the Gilbert Scott Houses.

In July 2011 an application was submitted to erect a single storey block of four flats in the garden of 3-5 Salisbury Street. Hull Civic Society have objected and so has Cecile Oxaal, a long-term resident of The Avenues and one of about 70 objectors. The following are extracts from her letter, which explains the national importance of the houses designed by George Gilbert Scott, junior. She writes:

I am writing to object to the plan to build an apartment block in the rear garden of 3-5 Salisbury Street, Hull (Application No. 13650P). Any new building on this site -- modern style or pastiche -- would be a serious encroachment on a garden setting which is crucial to providing visual perspectives of the architectural details and unity of design of the surrounding Listed Buildings.

The semi-detached pair of houses at 3-5 Salisbury Street and its garden occupy a central position in the symmetrical layout of this group of Grade II Listed houses (1877-79), designed by George Gilbert Scott junior. This group of houses is of historic and architectural importance, locally and nationally.

An Architect of National and Historic Significance

It is essential to consider why Scott, his houses and their setting are so important. George Gilbert Scott junior (1839-1897), born in London, came from a dynasty of architects spanning four generations. The three most distinguished members were: Sir George Gilbert Scott, the architect of the Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras Station and the Albert Memorial in

London; his son, George junior, who is the least remembered; and to complete the trinity, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, the son of George junior and architect of the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool and the iconic red telephone kiosk.

In his biography of George junior, *An Architect of Promise*, the architectural historian Gavin Stamp quotes Sir Giles's opinions of his father: "I always think that my father was a genius, the pity is that he did not do more work." "Grandfather was the successful practical man...but father was the artist." The writer A.N. Wilson agrees: "In many ways the Scott they all forgot [George junior] was the most interesting of the three and the most revolutionary."

George junior has his own claims to national achievement in the history of architecture in the 19th century. The architectural critic Jonathan Glancey writes :

"Scott helped give rise to the Queen Anne style, a new form of English domestic architecture. He was the creative missing link between the Victorian Gothic Revival and the Arts and Crafts Movement of [Augustus Welby Northmore] Pugin and William Morris." Pugin was the designer of the interiors of the Palace of Westminster, and the Clock Tower more familiarly known as Big Ben. Morris is England's most famous designer of the 19th century. The Queen Anne style of domestic architecture (1860-1900) has no real connection with the architecture during her reign (1702 – 1714). The style is defined as a mixture of a few genuine Queen Anne period details and many other English, Dutch, Flemish and French influences.

The Scott Houses in The Avenues

Gavin Stamp describes the Scott houses:

"The final scheme was for a symmetrical group of eight houses on the west side of Salisbury Street. In the centre was a semi-detached pair [3-5 Salisbury Street, behind which is the site of the proposed apartment block] –type A; on either side of these, on the corners of Westbourne Avenue and Park Avenue, at an angle, was a detached Tower House – type B; and on each side of these two was a twin-gabled detached house – type C."

"As Scott wanted the front elevations symmetrical and the side walls flat and windowless, he added unusual single-storey out-buildings between

the houses; these had continuous screen walls with parapets of a wavy gable form which also appeared above the projecting bay windows....The central pair were entered at the sides and the single-storey outbuildings placed in the shared recession between the front bay windows”.



Left: 1, 3 & 5 Salisbury Street Right: 107 Park Avenue, one of the detached tower houses, with later side additions. (Photo: JD Scotney)



3 Salisbury Street (rear garden visible, left, outbuildings, right). (Photo: JD Scotney)

“All the houses were faced in cement, with a red brick trim and details...the render was moulded into frames, garlands and a most unusual diaper texturing – like diamond tiles – which is possibly of French derivation.”

The wealth of design details of the exterior of the houses includes intricate gables, hipped roofs, brick aprons below

windows, brick pediments, pilasters and graceful dormer windows. Gavin Stamp quotes an assessment of Scott as a “master and a leader in the ‘Queen Anne’ revival.”

An Integrated Architectural Concept

The descriptions of these suburban villas, with 3-5 Salisbury Street as the central semi-detached pair, make clear that Scott envisioned the houses as a unified architectural concept, with the decorative details encompassing not only the fronts but also the sides and the rear of the houses. The Character Statement for The Avenues Conservation Area notes: “It is clear from the design of some houses that the side elevation, with perhaps a first floor or double-height bay, was intended to be seen and in such a case the side garden is an integral part of the dwelling.”



3 & 5
Salisbury
Street, rear
view.
(Photo
supplied
by John
Geekie
IEng
Artist,
and D.
Geekie
DMA.,
Cert Ed.)

The side and rear gardens of 3-5 Salisbury Street thus provide necessary vantage points from which the entire architectural scheme and its details can be seen. The eye can follow the curve of the houses, from rooftop to ground level, producing a striking cumulative effect from Park Avenue, along Salisbury Street, to Westbourne Avenue. Therefore, the houses and this central garden should be considered as a cohesive, integrated architectural site. Any building in the garden will impede access and obscure many parts of the vista of the houses.

Hull City Council’s Role in Protecting this Heritage

It would be particularly regrettable if Application No. 13650P (for a building in the rear garden of 3-5 Salisbury Street) were granted, as Hull City Council has taken an active role in the past to protect and restore these houses. Hull Civic Society, in its newsletter of September 1988, acknowledges this:

“July’s Good Mark is for the restoration of three houses (nos. 1, 3 and 5) in Salisbury Street, Hull, in the Avenues Conservation Area. They were designed by George Gilbert-Scott the Younger [sic]...The architect’s drawing of the elevation survives and the restoration has been done so accurately that to anyone standing in Salisbury Street they must look just as they did over 100 years ago, except for some revision of the bay windows. The credit for this enrichment of the Area is divided between Robertsons Estates Ltd. of Hull (the owners) and Browne, Smith, Baker and Partners (the architects), also of Hull. The conversion was made feasible by Improvement Grants from Hull City Council, whose collaboration in the task of raising money was much appreciated.”

Scott’s houses are very important to The Avenues and Pearson Park Conservation Area because they are the only Listed Buildings in the area. The houses are of great significance because they are among the few remaining Grade II listed residential buildings in Hull, a city which lost much of its architectural heritage during the bombing in World War II. Also, as noted in Hull City Council’s Character Statement for the area, the houses are regarded as Scott’s best remaining domestic architecture, nationally. Andrew Saint, Professor of Architecture, referring to Scott and these houses, writes: “A palpable sense of that genius in bricks and mortar has to be hunted out today. It can be run to ground in...a set of suburban villas in Hull....” They are thus a triple source of pride for the people of Hull, deserve to be treated with respect for their architectural distinction and require to be displayed in their best possible setting. The proposed apartment block will hinder access to the site and prevent observation of many aspects of the design of the houses. The people of Hull and the rest of the country, students of social history, architects, and architectural historians will be deprived of the opportunity to see Scott’s work to best advantage: as a multi-faceted architectural creation.

Renewing the Garden, Enhancing the Context of the Houses

As the view from the garden of 3-5 Salisbury Street is so crucial to the appreciation of the Scott houses, there is also a case to be made for developing the garden to complement the houses and enhance the site. The Character Statement for The Avenues Conservation Area notes:

“A predominantly green setting, created by the trees, verges, long gardens and incidental open spaces is part of the area’s special

character.... There is a welcome absence of backyard housing development within the large rear garden areas as well as an absence of extensive hard paved parking areas....The generous dimensions of the roads, verges, houses and gardens was emphasised in the original design and layout by the presence of various plots of land which were in broadly communal use providing facilities for the residents.”

Here is a golden -- and a green – opportunity to renew this special horticultural and communal idea.

I put forward here a positive suggestion derived from the architectural historian Mark Girouard’s book, *Sweetness and Light: The ‘Queen Anne’ Movement 1860-1900*. He writes:

“One of the forgotten accompaniments of the ‘Queen Anne’ Movement is the Queen Anne or ‘old-fashioned garden....By 1870 the revival of the old-fashioned garden was well under way, and the form it was to take for the next fifteen years had been more or less worked out. The typical layout was formal but not grand, with clipped hedges, sometimes with trellised walks and bowers, and with enclosing walls up which climbing plants flowered in profusion.Often an orchard, or a vegetable garden in which vegetables were mixed with borders of flowers, was incorporated into the layout.”

The dates of the building of Scott’s houses (1877-1879) are at the mid-point of the popularity of the Queen Anne style garden, and I do not think it too fanciful to believe that Scott would be pleased to see such a garden enhancing his domestic architecture. Stamp notes that ”Scott concerned himself with every detail of his buildings both inside and out: with wallpaper, plasterwork and door furniture in his houses...” Perhaps ideas from the Queen Anne style of garden, together with the mature trees and wild garden at the site, could be used to develop a garden which would attract winged, four-legged and two-legged visitors! This could be a community project, funded mainly by organisations other than Hull City Council, with the Council’s collaboration.

An Urban Greenspace

A communal garden could be a special feature of The Avenues Open Gardens event in July -- the largest neighbourhood event of its kind in the UK -- and a reminder of David Parkinson Garbutt’s vision of bringing the countryside to the town when he initiated the development of what is now

The Avenues and Pearson Park Conservation Area. A re-designed garden, enhancing the setting of the houses, would form a unique part of the heritage of The Avenues and of the city, giving pleasure to citizens and tourists and adding to their knowledge about their past and present environment.

In keeping with the history of the layout of The Avenues, the rear garden of 3-5 Salisbury Street should be considered as part of the Urban Greenspace. The Written Statement for the Natural Environment , Amenity Value, 6.23 notes that:

“Most areas of Urban Greenspace will have some degree of amenity value. This can include the sense of openness which they provide or the contribution which they make to the built environment. Urban Greenspace need not be on a grand scale to justify having amenity value. Small and otherwise relatively insignificant areas may have an important amenity value for local people. The amenity value of any area of Urban Greenspace will be a significant factor in deciding a planning application.” The amenity value of this garden is high, both for the setting of Scott’s houses and for The Avenues’ green locality. Written Statement 6.25 adds:

“As a finite resource, which is easy to develop but which cannot readily be replaced, its [Urban Greenspace] protection is essential.”

A Summary of the Main Points of my Letter of Objection to the Proposed Development:

-The semi-detached pair of houses at 3-5 Salisbury Street, Hull is the central pair of a group of Listed Buildings of local and national importance and in a Conservation Area.

-The rear garden provides an essential vantage point from which to gain a full view and appreciation of the group of houses as an architectural concept.

-Any building in the garden will limit access and obstruct views of the architectural details of the houses.

-Any building in the garden will have an adverse effect on some of the special features of The Avenues Conservation Area, as detailed in the Character Statement, and in the Hull City Plan for the Built Environment: Listed Buildings.

-The garden should be renewed, in keeping with the history and heritage of the houses and area, to enhance the setting and for communal use.

-The rear garden should be considered as Urban Greenspace, an amenity for The Avenues.

This magnificent and unusual group of houses -- a gem in Hull's architectural treasury -- has already suffered impairment at the hands of developers. Now, the city, through its Planning Committee, is presented with an opportunity to demonstrate again its commitment to protecting Hull's architectural heritage, promoting its aesthetic value and providing an enriching environment for everyone. The mainly financial aims of a property developer must not override the more important aim of preserving, for the wider community, the historic and architectural integrity of this group of houses and their setting.

Cecile Oxaal

'More about George Gilbert Scott junior'.

The architectural historian Gavin Stamp writes that Scott was also “an accomplished and refined designer of churches ...collegiate buildings, of furniture and metalwork, decoration and wallpaper -- whose masterpiece, the church of St. Agnes by Kennington Park in South London, had, quite simply, changed the course of English architecture.” In 1883, three years after he had converted to Roman Catholicism, Scott designed an Anglican church in Hull. St Augustine's Church was built near the junction of Queens Road and Princes Road.. Gavin Stamp writes that:

“...the client was his second-cousin, John Spyvee Cooper, for whom he had already designed a group of remarkable ‘Queen Anne’ houses in Hull [in Salisbury Street]....Cooper, a solicitor, was the grandson of Sir Gilbert Scott's uncle, the Revd John Scott, who had become the vicar of St Mary's, Hull.”

“[The sketches] confirm the synthetic nature of his architecture, that is, the combination of features consciously derived from a variety of ancient buildings to make a new composition, whose individuality, or originality, depended both upon variety and the manner in which precedents were interpreted.”

An unexecuted design for the church, based on Scott's sketches of 1883, but amended by Temple Lushington Moore, a pupil and protégé of Scott, was published in 1887. Temple Moore, whom Scott on one occasion referred to as his 'coadjutor', collaborated on this commission. However, by the time enough money had been raised to enable work to begin in 1890, the design had been altered and simplified. St Augustine's was not consecrated until 1896 because of outstanding debts and was demolished in 1976 because of severe subsidence. Nikolaus Pevsner and David Neave mention that "Only the former Church Hall, 1900 by John M. Dossor survives on Princes Road." Scott was also an antiquary and scholar, Sometime Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge, and the author of a highly regarded book on medieval church architecture.

In 1881 Scott began to suffer from mental illness and alcoholism, which led to periods of confinement in mental asylums and separation from his wife and four children (two other children had died in infancy). It is interesting that Stamp notes:

"...some of the first sketches for the Hull church were made while he was confined in the Bethlehem Hospital and – from the point of view of design – they show no sign of mental breakdown."

In his discussion of Temple Moore's work, Stamp adds: "During Scott's crisis in 1883-84, Moore seems to have performed the difficult combined roles of assistant, friend, go-between and independent architect with tact and dignity."

He died in May 1897 in the Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras Station; a touching aspect was that this was a building that his father had designed. Scott was staying there because he had no home of his own. His affairs were being looked after by officials, as he had been declared of unsound mind, under the Lunacy Acts. Gavin Stamp provides a fitting acknowledgment of his importance:

"Indeed, the architecture of the Late Victorian decades cannot be fully understood without reference to Scott and his achievement."

Cecile Oxaal

References:

Jonathan Glancey: 'The man between' *The Guardian*, December 9th 2002.
Gavin Stamp: *An Architect of Promise: George Gilbert Scott Junior (1839-1897) and The Late Gothic Revival*, Shaun Tyas, Donington, 2002.

Nikolaus Pevsner and David Neave: *The Buildings of England, Yorkshire: York and the East Riding*, Penguin Books, 1999.

Andrew Saint : ‘The Danger of Giving In’ *The London Review of Books*, October 17th, 2002

A. N. Wilson : ‘The One They All Forgot’ *The Spectator*, October 5th, 2002

Editor’s note: Readers who wish to add their voice to the objections should write to Planning Development Control, Kingston upon Hull City Council, 2nd Floor, Kingston House, Bond Street, Hull, HU1 3ER, quoting either the online reference 11/00661/FULL or reference 13650P

As Others See Us

A group of Hull College adult ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students were recently set the task of writing a magazine article: “In your article, describe your area, explain the advantages and disadvantages of living there and suggest at least one improvement you would like to see”. The result is an interesting insight into newcomers’ perceptions of Hull - often positive, but highlighting concerns as well. Most of the writers (all female, aged from late teens to 30s) are from Eastern Europe and one is Portuguese. Many thanks to all of them for giving permission to publish.

Editor.

The area where I’m living

I’m living on St Georges Road, between Anlaby Road and Hessle Road.

This is not a bad area. There are many advantages and, of course, some disadvantages, too. For example, in the area where I am living, there are many shops, like Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury’s, Wilkinson and many other shops. I think this is very good because, for example, if I need to buy something for my breakfast, I don’t have to drive for a mile, but just have to walk to a shop near to my house and buy it and it will take about 5 minutes of my time.

Not far from my house is a swimming pool and gym. It only takes about 15 minutes to walk there. That is very good, too. Everything is close. There is West Park in my area. That is a good place to walk with a dog, or just for running.

Like everywhere else, in my area there are some disadvantages. There is a railway crossing near to my house. Sometimes I can hear at home how the train is driving. A big minus is that the railway crossing is closed almost all the time. That is not good, because sometimes I have to hurry somewhere, but if the railway crossing is closed I have to wait.

The area is not bad, but it would be if the council made more spaces to park a car, because sometimes there are absolutely no places where you can leave a car.

Karina Pivovara.

I live on North Bransholme in Hull. North Bransholme is situated near Wawne village, about 30 minutes from the city centre.

There are many trees, bushes and lots of space.

A big playground is close to my house, where children can go to play, but some park equipment is old and damaged, so it is important to replace it for more children's safety. There are a local shop, health centre, pharmacy, school and post office nearby.

In my area there is no big supermarket, so people go shopping in different parts of the town.

The disadvantage of living in this area is that it is far away from the city centre. It takes people a long time to get there.

I really like my area, because it is very quiet and clean.

Sylwia Klimek.

I live in Porter Street in Hull.

Porter Street is a small area where there are many flats and some houses and there is as well a small council and community centre to help people.

This area has many people who live there because it isn't too far from town (Hull). That's a good advantage of living here and other positive things are that the health centre is near to Porter Street and the shopping as well.

But on the other side, there are some disadvantages; for example, sometimes there are people fighting in the street when they drink a lot. I can see as well people smoking drugs and making too much noise. That is one bad thing that needs solving because it isn't good for me and my son to grow up to see this.

In my opinion, someone needs to do something, like to punish people that smoke drugs or fight and always put some policemen to look at this area if there are any. The problem is how to make people feel safe.

Neide Castro.

I live on Cadogan Street. It is near Boulevard, Hessle Road, Coltman Street and Anlaby Road. It is a very convenient area, because everything that you need is a short way off. For example, on Anlaby Road is the polyclinic hospital and if you go straight on, the city centre. Hessle Road has lots of different clothes shops, supermarkets and just shops, such as Wilkinson and Home Bargains. I like my area, because the locality is beautiful. There are the fountain, different parks and child playgrounds, basketball and football courts and the police station is opposite my street, so I am happy with my area.

But also the area is a little bit associated with criminals; I mean there have happened a few rapes and robberies. I am afraid to go home alone at night. It is scary after knowing about these stories.

In my area there is everything except a big night club. I would suggest building a big night club somewhere in my area, because all the big night clubs are in the city centre.

Karina Jacenko.

My area

I'm living in Hull. It's a big town. Here are many areas. I live in one of them. I'm living on Newland Avenue. I have been living there for two years. I like this area.

There are many advantages and some disadvantages. On Newland Avenue there are many shops. You can buy anything that you need for the house or the garden. There are some clothes shops and shoe shops. There are many food shops - even international food. On Newland Avenue there are a lot of hairdressing salons and sunbeds. There are many pubs and café bars. You can go out at weekends. There are many places where you can go to eat: restaurants and pizza places. There is even one gym now and a post office and a Lloyds Bank. It's a good place because there is a school and near to Newland Avenue there is the University of Hull. Newland Avenue is just 20 minutes from the city centre if you are walking. By bus it takes 10 minutes. Houses are not very expensive.



Newland Avenue: “You can buy anything that you need” (Photo: JD Scotney)

There are some disadvantages. For example, because of the shops and a lot of places where people can relax, there are always many people. Only nights are quiet. Some streets are not nice; they are scary and not very safe. I never go there. My street is very nice and safe.

I wish there could be more clothes shops. My street has a very bad road. I wish that the council would fix it, because it is damaging cars.

Kristine Avtonomova

My city – Kingston upon Hull

This city is placed near to the River Humber. We have a really amazing and lovely place, where you can nicely spend your day – with family or on your own.

The advantages of living in Hull: There are lots of parks like Pearson or East Park where you can spend the day. The parks are usually clear. A big range of restaurants, pubs, takeaways and shops where you can find lots of good food. Lots of activities like swimming pools or basketball clubs. A very helpful council office which helps you with any trouble. Nice houses and usually clear roads. Nice hotels and they are not very expensive.

You can always find free space to park your car or bike. The buses are every 10 minutes going around Hull. Good colleges and university. There are really lots of advantages to living in Hull.

However, there should be some more improvements: they should build an airport at Hull, more primary schools for children and, of course, more jobs. I really like to live in Hull. I never want to go away from this lovely and fantastic city!

Melania Buc.

How does the world see Hull? Are we creating the right impression?

The one thing Civic Society members have in common is that we all care about our city. All too often people put the city down without really understanding it. Yet paradoxically I frequently hear people actually like the place when they get here. How we feel about a place is not really about this but how the landscape around inspires us within and then how we convey this to others. Buildings and streets don't on their own create value, it's about the people and communities that use them. In these tough times, we desperately need to talk up what Hull has to offer, inspiring confidence and mapping out a future.

Recently I have been looking at the visitor experience at some of Hull's main transport termini. These places give a first impression to our guests. See it like this: you wouldn't go to a job interview without a tie. You would want to look smart and that's how these places should be. They are, in effect, our shop windows. With over 1 million people passing through annually, both P&O Terminals are dull, lacking inspiration. I was struck by the absence of colour and the coldness of the place! I found just one leaflet about Hull (Hepworths Arcade), buried amongst a series of others to promote York and Lincoln and 'any other town'. No signage, no 'You're in Hull now, welcome to our proud city'. Overhearing conversations at the reservations desk prompted me to set up my own impromptu Travel and Information Surgery. 'How do I get to your train station' asked someone in almost perfect English but clearly from another European nation. The polite clerk pointed towards a scruffy old bus parked next to a luxurious coach with York on its destination. There was even a nice attractively produced banner 'Wait here for York'. Hull should be so lucky! Then there is the sign. The highly visible brown sign in the car park pointing to a Tourist Information Centre - that was closed over 10 years ago!!

At the Paragon Transport Interchange it doesn't get much better. You would be hard pressed to find anything out about the Ferrybus, find a tourist leaflet or be directed to Hull's many attractions. And the Ferrybus goes from the furthest most possible stand from the trains, right at the bottom of the Interchange, next to the doors overlooking the car park. Cold and damp in the winter. I asked train conductors. 'Oh yes, we often get asked "How do we get to the Ferry Terminal?" We just tell them to get a taxi.' What about the daily Ferrybus I said. 'What Ferrybus?' Like a

game of ping pong, some guests stray in to the 'Travel Centre' only to be redirected from window to desk. 'We don't do the bus; you will have to go to another desk over there!' Hardly a good impression.

We must get the basics right. This is what people see and experience. Hull is a proud city with a lot to offer, so now, more than ever, we need to pull together and realise this city's true potential. What do you think?

(Adam Fowler is a former Chair of the Civic Society and now works for The City of Hull & Humber Environment which brings people together to improve their environment.)

Greetings from York to Hull

The following letter from Dr Bibby appeared in the Hull Daily Mail. The visit was not organised by Hull Civic Society, but we felt that the outcome of David Neave and Paul Schofield's guided tour was worth celebrating.

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society in York to thank the people of Hull for a magnificent day-visit which our members enjoyed in your fair city last month.

60 of our members signed up for this visit and made their way to Hull separately by bus, train and car for a 3-hour guided walk. Our guides, David Neave and Paul Schofield introduced us to so many masterpieces: Victoria Square, the dock area, your impressive Holy Trinity Church, and then the gems of High Street, Charterhouse Chapel and St Charles Borromeo - not to mention your fine new history centre and Philip Larkin! ...

The feedback from all who came was nothing but positive.

Hull is a truly impressive city and a place that all Yorkshire people should be proud of.

We shall spread the word.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN BIBBY

Good Mark - Sewell Group Academy, Geneva Way, Hull

A project which aims to introduce children to the world of construction, alongside teaching them practical employability skills and the wide variety of other skills required in the construction industry, such as plumbing, electrical work, bricklaying, plastering and painting and decorating, all of which are presently being used in the major building projects in the schools, healthcare and other projects that are transforming the city in which they live, has been recognised by the award of a Hull Civic Society Good Mark for the Sewell Group's new Skills Academy.

The Skills Academy is home to five live and interactive trade environments, learning and desk based activity space, health and safety and welfare facilities and induction and presentation areas. Whereas the Studio is a working office space, alongside "We love Monday's", an open-house, café style meeting place and the 'school space', a demonstration zone for the Building Schools for the Future programme that can be converted into presentation and meeting place.

Dr Paul Sewell OBE said, "We are grateful to our partners who helped us to realise this ambitious project, as this enterprise provides the essential link between education and business and also opens the door to the Sewell Group for a wider audience who might not ordinarily think of them as anything other than a petrol retailer, or a builder. It also demonstrates the company commitment to 'doing the right thing'".

John Netherwood, chair of the Civic Society said "It is for this commitment to the future employment of our young people, through enabling them to acquire the correct skills and attitude for the workplace in a safe and well-equipped environment that the Hull Civic Society is pleased to award their Good Mark".

Colin McNicol.

Planning and Buildings

Old Town

Those who cross Myton Bridge will have noticed that the superstructure of the new footbridge being built over the River Hull is now in position at the end of Scale Lane Staith. The approach path on the eastern bank has yet to be built, though the only destination at present is the Premier Inn. Personally, I think the site of the abandoned "Boom" development on the

east bank should be used for a much-needed car park for the Old Town to balance the pull of the free Tesco car park at St Stephen's.

Permission was given in February for Marina Court, Castle St, to have a new front entrance structure. In the quieter corners of the Old Town, conversion of former offices to flats is still seen to be a good investment. In April, approval was given to convert the upper floors of 2 Silver St, the former Lloyds TSB bank, into 7 flats, with a roof terrace, but in the same month permission was refused for the unsympathetic replacement windows and front doors already installed at Cogan House in Bowlalley Lane. An application was submitted in April to convert the offices at 18-20 Princes Dock St into a café bar and restaurant.

On Humber Dock St, restoration work is nearing completion on the fine Hesslegate Buildings. It was originally erected in 1884 as a fruit warehouse overlooking Humber Dock and was converted more recently into the Baltic Wharf pub. Its new use is as a restaurant with flats above.

According to a report in the Hull Daily Mail (9.5.12), the Roads Minister, Mike Penning, has announced that funding is available for "development work" on the £150 million A63 Castle Street scheme, so that if it is included in the next spending review (due 2015), work could start quickly. We shall see.

Humber Quays

In late March, an outline application was submitted to erect 88 dwellings and a convenience store on Humber Quays, the land between Wellington St West and the River Humber, just to the west of the two modern office blocks. This is a change from the more commercially-orientated outline scheme approved in September 2007 for "Mixed use development comprising offices, hotel, retail/restaurant/leisure, 32 apartments, multi-storey car park, surface car parking areas and associated highway and public realm works".

City Centre

The single storey pair of shops at 6-8 Paragon Square has always been a curious gap in the building line. One of them was occupied for many years by Duncan's gun shop and older readers may remember the "Guinness Clock" which once filled the void above. In early April, permission was granted for a new two-storey building on the site.

Approval was given in early April for Manor Properties to build an 8-storey, 132-bed Hilton Hotel on the site of the former Heaven & Hell Club (originally the Central Synagogue) at the corner of Anne St and Osborne St. The site is now fenced off.

University of Lincoln's final withdrawal from Hull is foreshadowed by an application in early April for various alterations to the Derek Crothall Building (former Nautical



Heaven & Hell Club, Anne St (former Central Synagogue) – Photo: JD Scotney.

College) on George St to prepare for use by Trinity House School. Works include new cladding, a new sports hall on the existing car park, infilling



University of Lincoln, George Street – former Nautical College (1974) (Photo: JD Scotney)

extensions below the existing blocks, a new car park and landscaping.

At 41-65 George St (Venue club, formerly Carmichaels department store), an application was submitted in early March to create 15 flats on the 1st floor, replace windows on front and rear elevations and demolish a rear section to provide a car park. It would appear that some work has already started, as some of the first floor windows have

already been removed, though a planning decision is awaited. A scheme for conversion into a hotel was approved some time ago.

On the opposite side, at 82-88 George St, permission was given in March for the ground floor and basement night club to become either a restaurant or offices and to change to 1st & 2nd floors and attic into two dwellings.

The application to erect a statue of the popular Hull-born singer, David Whitfield (1925-1980) in Kingston Square was approved in early April.

Ferensway, Park Street & St Stephen's

In early April, permission was given for a block of up to 143 flats on the land bounded by Spring St, Colonial St and Grey St – part of the open area to the north of St Stephen's Tesco car park. The ground floor would contain a reception area, café-bar and commercial or retail units, plus car parking. It is an outline application at this stage.

East

The most important planning decision for Hull as a whole was taken on 9th May, when the city council's planning committee considered and approved the application by Siemens and ABP to build a wind turbine factory and associated port facilities at Alexandra Dock. *Three cheers for the planning committee!* We described this "Green Port Hull" development in the February Newsletter.



Left: The new Kingswood High School rises next to the old one (right)
Below: The present Kingswood High School (originally Perronet Thompson School) as it appeared in 2010.
(Photos: JD Scotney)

Work is well advanced on the new Kingswood High School, which overlooks the Wawne Road roundabout in Bransholme. It stands next to the 1987 building, which, though hailed as futuristic when it first opened as Perronet Thompson School, has proved rather unsatisfactory. The new building is scheduled to be completed in October, ready for the school to move in at the start of term in January 2013.



On Kingswood itself, the new house building to the north of the shopping centre is creeping towards Wawne Rd.

The old Princess Royal Hospital on Saltshouse Rd is currently being demolished for a housing development.

In late March, there was an application to convert the outbuildings of Holderness House into 7 flats and add another 8 single-storey dwellings. The main house, originally built in 1838 for the Jalland family and later bought by Thomas Ferens, became a ladies' retirement home after his death in 1930.

The Waterloo Tavern, which nestles in the shadow of Rank's flour mill on Great Union St was the subject of an application in early April for change of use into a site for sale and storage of reclaimed building products and antiques – a new use for an interesting 1900s building.

It was expected that the opening of the new hostel, Crossings, would allow closure of the old hostel for the homeless at Dock House, St Peter St. Sadly, the number of homeless people has made it necessary to keep it open.

West

St Andrew's Dock, which once dominated Hessle Road's economy and culture, is a desolate scene of dereliction, despite being a conservation area. In mid March, "Conservation Area Consent" was requested for "Demolition of J.Marr building, Albert Club, River Chambers and adjoining buildings, Bank building on north side of dock". There was also an outline application to erect six buildings (5 & 6 storeys or higher) for student accommodation providing 1231 bedrooms, a gym, retail unit and café. The scheme also includes restoration of the surviving part of St Andrew's Dock as a water feature, landscaping and laying out footpaths and car parking.

Hessle Road's social activities often centred on its pubs. In mid-March, permission was given for the Darley's Arms on Porter St to be converted into a youth centre. The splendid tiled Alexandra Hotel (listed) near Smith & Nephew's is being refurbished. The application for external alterations includes replacing a 1st floor UPVC window with a wooden framed one.

Hessle Road's new health centre (opposite Boyes) is structurally complete and cladding was being applied in early May.

The Albert Hotel, Anlaby Rd, is a prominent building opposite St George's Rd. In mid-March, there was an application for major external alterations to the front elevation and forecourt.

Work is in full swing on the site of Boothferry Park football ground, laying out roadways and digging and filling house foundations. Another scene of house-building activity is to be found in Hawthorn Ave (which runs south from Anlaby Rd to Hessle Rd), Woodcock St (which runs east from Hawthorn Ave to St Georges Rd) and their side streets. Older terraced houses are being demolished to be replaced with new 3, 4 and 5-bedroom houses. Permission was granted in late April for another 49 houses on the north and south sides of Woodcock St. The next phase of demolition will be Greek St and part of the east side of Hawthorn Ave.

A report in the Hull Daily Mail in early April announced that a “Free School” would be built on the site of Hull FC’s old Boulevard ground in Airlie St.

North

Two new schools are nearing completion: on Hall Rd (opposite Tesco), the new Ferens Academy is structurally complete and clad in eye-catching panels decorated with an orange and yellow flame design.



Ferens Academy,
Hall Road.
(Photo: JD
Scotney)

The new 3-storey Endike Primary School is topped out and a stucco finish is being applied to its concrete structure. In February, there was an application to build a 2-storey rear extension onto the listed Newland School for Girls.

On the Newland Homes site, Cottingham Rd, the new blocks of student flats that have replaced the 1920s swimming pool and 1960s office fit in

very well with the style and brick colour of the original 1890s orphanage houses. Most of these are also used as student houses.

A large number of the houses on Cottingham Rd between Newland Ave and Chanterlands Ave are let to students and our house is now one of the few privately owned ones. We still like living here and we have no problems with our student neighbours, but we have seen a gradual exodus of families. This has removed quite a lot of good family houses from Hull's housing stock and altered the character of the area and the type of shops it supports over the last 38 years. By contrast, the stretch of Chanterlands Ave between Cottingham Rd and Bricknell Ave is still a family residential area. However, a planning application to provide 69 rooms for students in three 2 – 2½ storey blocks on the YPI car park would spread the “student zone” into a new area and probably trigger the exodus of families, as has happened in Cottingham Rd. This is a revised version of the scheme refused last year and the Civic Society has again added its voice to the local residents' objections.

If you wish to comment, the application number is 00027301D, and the online reference number is: 12/00394/FULL

The new police headquarters on Clough Rd is structurally complete and

cladding is nearly finished.

After a couple of years standing disused, the McDonald's at the corner of Beverley Rd and Terry St (next to Asda) re-opened in early May as a KFC. It isn't an exciting building, but its rescue from dereliction improves the streetscape! In nearby Margaret St (south side of Asda),



New Humberside Police HQ, Clough Road
(Photo: JD Scotney)

workmen are putting the finishing touches to an attractive new residential care home on the corner of Park Rd.

The former Crescent Office Supplies building (originally a joinery workshop) on Beverley Rd, next to the Masonic Hall, has taken on a new role as the Amazing Grace Chapel belonging to a denomination called the Redeemed Christian Church of God. The sect was established in Nigeria in 1952, according to its website.

There has been some concern in the Avenues about an application to erect flats in the garden of 3-5 Salisbury St. We and many other people have objected.

John Scotney

Committee Changes

Janet Green, who stepped down from the committee at this year's AGM, has done an excellent job as Corporate Membership Secretary, increasing the number of Corporate Members by more than 20 firms and organisations. We are grateful for all the work she has done on the committee. Mike Bisby is her successor as Corporate Membership Secretary and, despite his comment that Janet has given him a lot to live up to, I am sure that he will continue Janet's good work very effectively.

Ian Goodison, co-opted last year, is now a full member of the committee, bringing his expertise to the planned "What's Happening in Hull" exhibition which will tour various public venues in the city.

Phil Haskins, who has developed Heritage Open Days into an event which attracts people from well beyond the city's boundaries, has opted to remain a co-opted member of the committee.

September Newsletter

Many thanks to all our contributors. Please submit all items by 18th August to the Editor, John Scotney, 126 Cottingham Rd, Hull, HU6 7RZ, or preferably, by e-mail to john.scotney@talk21.com. Please note: items may sometimes be held over for lack of space.

Civic Society Officers and Committee 2012-13

Chairman:	John Netherwood 653657 jnetherwood@jnetherwood.karoo.co.uk
Hon. Secretary & Planning	Cynthia Fowler 377434 pinkhouse1@hotmail.co.uk
Vice Chairman, Newsletter Editor,	John Scotney 492822 john.scotney@talk21.com
Hon. Treasurer, Individual Membership Mailing list, Charities Commission	Walter Houlton 375605 walter@houlton1.karoo.co.uk
Corporate Membership Secretary Art & design matters	Mike Bisby 07949 293651 mike@thegreatyorkshiredragon.co.uk
Programme, Good Marks	Malcolm Sharman 561611 malcsharman@hotmail.com
Planning, Museums, Industrial Heritage	Colin Cooper 863339 lyndacooper01482@yahoo.co.uk
Marketing and Old Town Regeneration	Colin McNicol 229891 cmnicol@cmnicol.karoo.co.uk
Website, public relations and visits	Chris Lefevre 815132 chrisblefevre@chrisblefevre.karoo.co.uk
Planting, soft landscaping and architecture	Nick Garbutt 01964 631140 nicholastopiaris@fsmail.net
Publicity and public relations, local history	Paul Schofield 878535 schopaul@hotmail.com
Planning, development & architecture	Patrick Horton 816121 Patrick.horton@nps.co.uk
Local History (co-opted member)	David Smith 706902 leaguehull@googlemail.com
Exhibitions	Ian Goodison 791439 ian.goodison@hotmail.co.uk
Heritage Open Days (co-opted member)	Phil Haskins 646683 p.haskins@pfhproductions.co.uk

Would you prefer to receive your Newsletter by Post or Email?

At present, we post about 350 Newsletters to Civic Society members, but it may be that some of our readers would prefer to receive it by email (in full colour!). If you are on our mailing list, you will continue to receive it by post, but please email the editor if you wish to have your Newsletter by email instead.

If you want to continue receiving your Newsletter by post, but would like to receive notice of additional events by email, please let us know about that, as well.

Your email address will not be passed on to anyone else without your permission.

Editor john.scotney@talk21.com

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

Name _____

Address _____

_____ **Postcode** _____

Tel. _____ **Email address** _____

Date _____

Please send with your subscription to our Honorary Treasurer,
Walter Houlton, 16 Maple Grove, Garden Village, Hull, HU8 8PL