



YORKSHIRE & HUMBER
Association of Civic Societies

Member of



SOCIETY INSIGHT

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**"CELEBRATING
LOCAL
HERITAGE"**

DAVID OLUWALE REMEMBERED IN LEEDS

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The events of 25th April 2022 and the weeks that followed will stay in my memory long after my association with Leeds Civic Trust has ended. Two articles follow - one is a factual account of the unveiling and the other a description of the theft of the plaque and the aftermath. I would like to offer a couple of comments about the context of this unveiling.



Painting by Lynne Arnison

In common with many civic societies, our plaques scheme marks important people, places and events that have had an impact on the city of Leeds. Our plaques scheme, which has been going for close to 35 years, aims to tell the story of Leeds in around 50 words in the case of each plaque. But how representative are our plaques of the story of Leeds? We reviewed our scheme and found that there were significant gaps and disparities. Far more of our plaques are for men than women, we tend to focus on "high achievers", the Victorian era dominates. And few of our plaques reflect the histories of people who are not white.

Another key issue for us to confront was the unwritten understanding that "we don't do sad" – plaques generally celebrate, but rarely commemorate. It was also clear that our criteria did not allow us to reflect on the impact of someone after their death – their legacy. Taken in its strictest sense, the Leeds Civic Trust Blue Plaque scheme would not have awarded a plaque for Van Gogh, an unsuccessful artist (in his lifetime). This legacy rule meant that repeated requests for David Oluwale were turned down. When we finally changed our criteria, it became possible to "remember David."

The blue plaque refers to David Oluwale being “hounded” – he was frequently beaten up by the police who dumped him on the outskirts of the city in the hope that he would not return. The fact that he returned time after time (and knew that the same treatment would await him), are the actions of a man who, despite everything, felt a connection with Leeds and wanted to make it his home. He was constantly belittled and maltreated by those in authority – even the trial judge, who directed the jury to find his attackers not guilty described him as “a dirty, filthy, violent vagrant.” So whilst Leeds was his home, his life in his last few years was brutal, there is nothing in it that is worthy of celebration. It was what happened to him after his death: the books, plays, poetry, legal papers, the prospect of a new sculpture in his honour and the naming of a footbridge on the River Aire in his name – all of this makes him a hugely important figure in the history of our city.



This makes the theft of his plaque all the more serious.

Martin Hamilton
Director, Leeds Civic Trust



THE UNVEILING OF A PLAQUE TO DAVID OLUWALE

With a crowd of 200 and many dignitaries, David Oluwale’s blue plaque unveiling was a symbolic and moving event. Jane Taylor takes up the story:

After an afternoon of bright sunshine a few drops of rain threatened to dampen the mood of the many people gathering at the new pocket park on Meadow Lane to mark the life and death, nearly 53 years to the day, of David Oluwale. In conjunction with the Trust, the David Oluwale Memorial Association (DOMA) had organised speeches, poetry readings and music to ensure his tragic story was not forgotten.



That tragic story began in 1949 when David, a British Nigerian, set off from his poverty-stricken home in Lagos for a better life. Without the means to buy a ticket he crept aboard the Temple Bar ship, destined for Hull, hiding amongst boxes of groundnuts. He was discovered a few days into the journey and so when the ship docked he was arrested and jailed for being a stowaway. He was imprisoned for a month in Armley jail.

Following his release he worked in industries helping rebuild post-war Leeds but in 1953 things started to go terribly wrong. In a row over a disputed bill at the King Edward Hotel near the Corn Exchange David fought with police and it is rumoured that he took a blow to his head. He was charged with disorderly conduct and imprisoned where it was reported he suffered from hallucinations.

As a consequence, he was transferred to Menston Asylum where he languished for eight years. The treatment he received at Menston included electric shock treatment and heavy anti-psychotic tranquillisers. Upon his release he was unable to hold down a job and quickly became homeless. He spent the final two years of his life sleeping on the city's streets where he was the target of mental and physical abuse at the hands of two police officers, former Insp Geoffrey Ellerker and Sgt Kenneth Kitching.

David was last seen in the early hours of 18 April 1969 being chased by the officers towards the River Aire. His body was recovered two weeks later. David's death resulted in the first successful prosecution of British police officers for their involvement in the death of a black person. It was a major factor in the disbandment of Leeds City Police.

Around sixty people heard speeches from our unveiler, DOMA patron and Leeds born Professor Caryl Phillips, an internationally acclaimed writer based at Yale University in Connecticut, Cllr James Lewis, Leader of Leeds CC, Alison Lowe, Deputy Mayor and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cllr Abigail Marshall Katung, DOMA patron and Detective Chief Superintendent Carl Galvin. Dr Emily Zobel Marshall, DOMA's co-chair compered the event.

All speeches referred to the changes his death had brought about especially within the police. DCS Galvin's father was the police officer who reported the officers who were abusing David. Carl's speech reflected the pride that he had for his father only finding out about the part he played just before his father died. The crowd then moved from the park to Leeds Bridge for the unveiling itself.

The unveiling was a fitting and moving event, one which was hugely symbolic in the city coming to terms with what happened to David.

Jane Taylor
Chair, Leeds Civic Trust

**'WE MAY ENCOUNTER MANY DEFEATS
BUT WE MUST NOT BE DEFEATED'**

It has been a few weeks now since the theft of David Oluwale's blue plaque but Maya Angelou's words seem particularly apt. It is fair to say that for those involved in organising the unveiling, for our friends at David Oluwale Memorial Association and for those who had campaigned for his plaque - every emotion has been felt in these subsequent days - from heartbreak and devastation when reports first emerged of the plaque's theft, to a sense of pride, love and humility at the incredible response of the city.



It was at 6:50am on the Tuesday morning that Martin Hamilton and I first heard about the theft, receiving messages from ITV Calendar and BBC Look North to ask if we had authorised the removal of the plaque...or could we confirm that it had indeed, been stolen. A quick dash to Leeds City Centre and a few calls with DOMA Trustees confirmed the news – someone had under the cover of darkness removed David Oluwale’s memorial plaque and stolen it, a plaque with all its symbolism positioned yards away from where he had originally entered the water and tragically died.

West Yorkshire Police were swift to act, three police officers walked with me to Leeds Bridge where they gathered intelligence. We arrived to find a boat skippered by Canal Connections searching the River Aire in vain for David’s plaque.

It was then that the press calls began in earnest – BBC, ITV, The Guardian, The Press Association - a quote and press statement was needed for each. Martin rushed to Leeds Bridge with Robin (his three-year-old son) in tow. We kept him entertained with YouTube videos of Paw Patrol and Postman Pat whilst dad spoke to Calendar and Look North!

And then something incredible began to emerge, our message on twitter about the plaque’s theft had resonated and shocked the city. Keen to show solidarity many people and businesses (including Manjit’s Kitchen) began to change their profile pictures to David’s Plaque. This started a seed of an idea – if we could appropriate the image of David’s plaque taking its ‘ownership’ away from the thieves and installing it (albeit digitally) back in the city, it would be an act of collective defiance against those who sought to divide us. They may be able to take down a single plaque, but good luck to them taking down hundreds of virtual and digital ones!

We approached Leeds City Council’s Leadership Team, asking if they could show David’s plaque on the Millennium Square and Kirkgate Market billboards? Councillor Jonathan Pryor was soon on the case – with encouraging news, yes, the Council would gladly display the plaque, but more so, JCDecaux the owners of the huge electronic billboards on some of Leeds’s busiest thoroughfares would also like to display the plaque. As they went live we couldn’t help but think that the story of David Oluwale could no longer be ignored.

In the subsequent weeks our social media pages have received thousands of messages of support – with many notable journalists, such as the BBC’s correspondent in Ukraine Sarah Rainsford, academics, such as ‘House Through Time’ presenter, David Olusoga, and many, many thousands of Leeds residents each sharing and highlighting David’s life, legacy, and the city’s response to the theft.



Photo courtesy of JCDecaux

It has also been humbling to read the many emails and messages which have arrived at the Trust. Many have shared that they hadn’t heard David’s story

before but were now discussing issues around his life such as homelessness, racism, and mental ill-health with their families and friends.

As moral and kind support flooded in (including the thoughtful delivery of flowers to the Trust) so too did financial support with over £3,500 being raised in four days from over 200 donors via a hastily arranged crowdfunding page, with proceeds going towards the cost of a new, more secure, plaque as well as a dedicated CCTV camera which will monitor the plaque 24 hours a day.

And still the campaign continues. David's plaque has now been displayed on Leeds Playhouse's huge screen – facing the now demolished Milgarth police station where former-Inspector Geoffrey Ellerker and Sergeant Kenneth Kitching would have planned their sadistic taunts and beatings.



Opera North, the Henry Moore Institute, the Universities, North Brewing Company, have also proudly displayed David's plaque on their digital billboards.

Andy McVeigh, aka, the Burley Banksy has also painted one of his telephone boxes to remember David Oluwale.

As this city-wide response has grown, we noticed that each show of solidarity, no matter how large or small help amplify David's story. Leeds-based 'Awesome Merchandise' have kindly donated stickers of David Oluwale's plaque – these are available to pick up at Welcome Skateboards, Thornton Arcade, but be quick as they are running out as soon as new ones arrive.

A special article in The Observer followed, and at one point, David's story was the 7th most read article on the national BBC News website. Dr Emily Zobel Marshall and I were interviewed by Sanchez Payne on BBC Radio Leeds to mark and reflect on a fortnight since the plaque's theft.

Throughout, the police and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe, have been hugely supportive and tenacious in their efforts to capture the criminals behind this theft culminating in the arrest of three males.

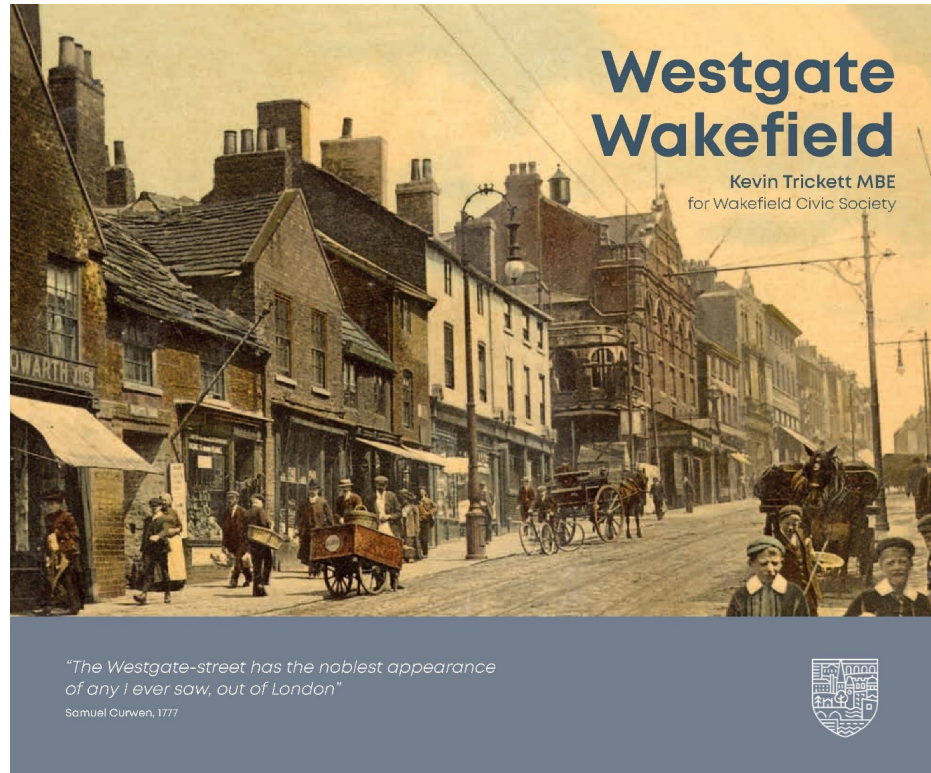
Speaking to Dr Emily Zobel Marshall from DOMA about the theft and its subsequent impact, she said 'You can remove the plaque, but you can't silence the message', and I hope through our interventions and through the city's amazing collective condemnation we are finally ready to confront David's death and to honour him as a true Yorkshire-Nigerian man who was wronged in the most tragic of ways and continue to grow and learn from his legacy.

Meleri Roberts
Leeds Civic Trust

Unattributed photos are courtesy of Leeds Civic Trust

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Writing History – Celebrating Heritage



I've written a book (yes, another one!). This time, my subject was the history of Westgate in Wakefield and the book has been published by Wakefield Civic Society as part of the Society's contribution to the Westgate Historic High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) project, a heritage-led regeneration scheme funded by Wakefield Council and Historic England. We're also putting up new blue plaques (and refurbishing some of our older plaques that were looking 'tired' after being in place for nearly 30 years in some cases), also funded by the project, and doing guided walks of the area. (Should you want a copy of any of my books, you can buy them on-line here: <https://wakefield-civic-society.square.site/>)

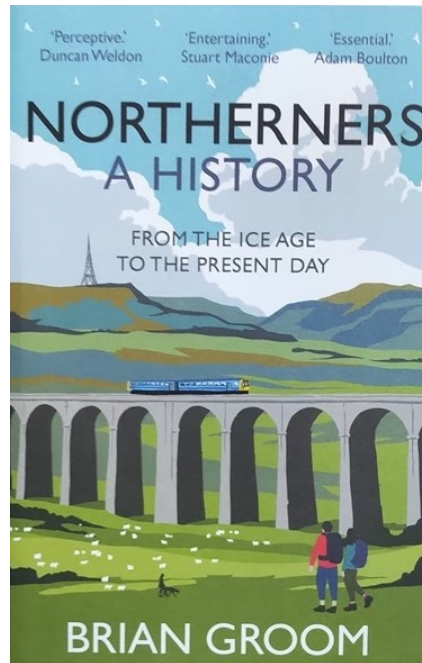
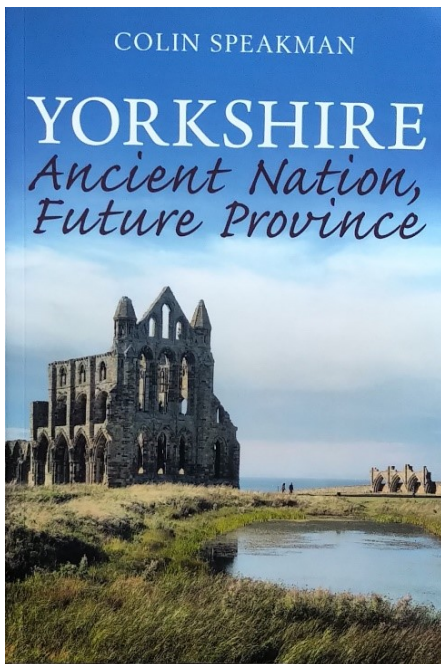
Heritage-led regeneration is an interesting concept. Wakefield Civic Society was involved in an earlier project to research the history of Wood Street in the city. This was a much smaller project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. As with the Westgate project, we worked with Wakefield Historical Society to undertake research into the history of the street and its buildings and I wrote a book about that history, again published by the Civic Society, and we put up some blue plaques and led guided walks. At the project's inception, some of the buildings in the street had fallen empty – the old Court House has been empty for nearly 30 years now – and, with the more recent closure of the main police station, a very dominant building in the street, the future of the area was looking somewhat bleak.

Proving cause and effect is always difficult in these matters but the public interest generated in the area from our telling of the history does seem to have paid dividends. A number of new businesses have moved back into the street and developer Rushbond have come up with some **interesting proposals**, supported by the Civic Society, for new residential properties in and around

the police station while they intend to turn the Court House into flexible building for business, community and entertainment uses. Would this have happened without the project? Who knows! But I do know that the research undertaken during the Wood Street project by the Civic and Historical societies was used by developers and businesses to help inform some of their investment decisions. The Westgate HAZ project is much broader in scale and the funding more significant (circa £4m) as it includes enhancements to the public realm and property refurbishments as well as community engagement initiatives. I've already led six guided walks and given a number of talks based on my book with more planned throughout the summer. My talks and walks are being well received with local residents, councillors and businesspeople coming along. The overall aim of the project is to 'transform one of Wakefield's most historically significant streets to positively change perceptions of the area' and, in so doing, boost tourism, culture and community engagement while also attracting inward investment. Early days yet, but schemes from property owners (who can qualify for grants of up to 90% of the cost of repairs) are coming forward and scaffolding is now up on three buildings with more to follow.

In doing research for my new book, I looked at old maps and photos and did lots of reading as well as referring to the new research being undertaken by Wakefield Historical Society. To put the history of Westgate into context, it was, I felt necessary to write about the history of Wakefield – and that meant reading not just books on local history but also books on regional and even national history. In the course of my research, I have bought a goodly number of books, both new and second-hand, and my bookshelves are overflowing. Fortunately, lockdown provided the perfect opportunity to do much of the reading!

Now that my book is finished, I've been able to turn my attention to other matters but I'm still buying and reading books.....



Two

books I've read recently, which I can recommend to anyone with an interest in our region are *Yorkshire – Ancient Nation, Future Province* (Gritstone Publishing £12.50) by Colin Speakman and *Northerners – A History from the Ice Age to the Present Day* (Harper North £20) by Brian Groom.

Each book is excellent in its own way – although the breadth and scope of the subject matter really require longer volumes – there’s just so much to say. Both books are in part historical synopses and in part political polemics.

Speakman’s book starts with an overview of our region’s history but then broadens into a celebration of the region’s culture and natural features across ten chapters divided into sub-regional areas (including York and Leeds which each receive chapters of their own). But, as indicated in the title, the book also questions the future governance of the region, pointing out that once upon a time, before the Norman Conquest, Yorkshire was an independent Anglo-Viking kingdom. While Speakman falls short of arguing for full Yorkshire independence, he does make the case for greater devolution of decision-making.

Groom’s book is a more comprehensive exploration of the history of the whole north of England – covering everything north of the Mersey and the Humber up to the Scottish border. Again, comparisons with the past and the present are made – how our shared history has shaped the present – and could yet influence the future. The north was at one time the powerhouse of the industrial revolution but this early lead somehow failed to deliver long-term prosperity for the north into the latter half of the 20th century. The north-south divide entrenched itself, not only in the economic map of England, but also in our consciousness. Will ‘levelling up’, whatever that turns out to be, finally close the gap? As Groom says, “Northerners could be forgiven a weary sigh as once again a government pledged measures to close an economic divide that has become an increasingly pressing political issue”. And if it does deliver, what will be the impact on the north’s ‘cultural identity’?

I enjoyed reading these books, in the order reviewed here, and they will be of interest to anyone wanting to deepen their understanding of the stories that made our part of the country what is today.

Of course, celebrating our history isn’t just about writing books. As civic societies, we find many other ways to remember history. One way we do this is through our various blue plaque schemes (colours, I am aware, may vary!).

As a ‘curator’ of our own blue plaque scheme at Wakefield Civic Society, I’m constantly checking that our blue plaques are all in place – I know where they are all located and it’s now second nature to glance over at each location when I pass a building just to check that the plaque is there and intact. I know the jolt you get when you look for a plaque to discover it missing.....

Luckily for us, on the one occasion when it happened to one of the Society’s plaques, we think it was the result of a misunderstanding and it was replaced at no cost to the Society – but that’s a story for another day! (A couple of blue plaques put up by other organisations over the years have also been removed in the past – the circumstances are unclear and I’m not sure whether the ‘removals’ were ever investigated.)

So, I was both saddened and shocked to read about the theft of the blue plaque to David Oluwale at Leeds Civic Trust, something which I first read about on social media. Theft of a blue plaque is, of course, a form of heritage crime, but, in this case, it also seems to be something more sinister and I understand that it is being treated as a hate crime by the police.

Sometimes, though, good comes out of bad, and it was reassuring to see the public response to the removal of the plaque and it's quite likely that the ensuing publicity actually brought Oluwale's story to greater public attention than the blue plaque alone would have done. However, the theft not only disrespected Oluwale's story, tragic as it was, but also the hard work and dedication of many volunteers and others who work behind the scene to put up plaques in the first instance.

Let's hope that the replacement stays in place as a lasting tribute. Blue plaques play an important part in telling our nation's history, often celebrating and commemorating individuals whose stories might otherwise go unnoticed. If we within the civic movement don't write those histories, who will?

Kevin Trickett MBE

CIVIC VOICE'S NATIONAL CIVIC DAY 2022



We want to see a society where every individual can say 'I am proud of where I live', and National Civic Day is part of the platform to achieve this.

The first ever Civic Day was held on June 25th, 2011 and involved over 200 community groups across England who put on over 350 events to celebrate where they live. Since then over **1700** community events have been held across England - organised by volunteers - making Civic Day a truly national event.

Powered by Civic Voice, Civic Day is part of a growing movement changing how people collaborate and interact with the place where they live. People who care about where they live. People who have pride in their place.

National Civic Day inspires residents to take action and 'be civic', 'be innovative', 'be though-provoking' to transform their historic high street and conservation area through hundreds of actions in one day. Civic Day is a national celebration of civic pride. It is taking place on **June 18th 2022**.

Although the co-ordinating work is done by Civic Voice, what really makes this event happen is the fantastic effort of thousands of volunteers. These people give guided tours, put on exhibitions, arrange street parties, organise competitions and help visitors understand the area they live in just a little bit more.

Perhaps you could organise a town walk? Or a 'community conversation' looking at the future of your town or city? Groups including Matlock, Marple and Margate are all places registering ideas with us for Civic Day.

With the Platinum Jubilee taking place this year, we encourage groups to do something during June, whether for the Platinum Jubilee, National Civic Day, or another date. We will also be re-introducing the Civic Day Awards.

You can register your event at [Civic Voice | Campaigns | Civic Day](#)

Editor - Article abstracted from Civic Voice website

RENOVATING A TRADITIONAL GRIMSBY SMOKE HOUSE

Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust is working in partnership with the local authority and port operator to bring an unloved fish smoking house back into life.

Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust was set up in 2010 to secure the future, not just of the Grade II* listed Grimsby Ice Factory but the historic Victorian docks which provide its setting (now part of the 'Kasbah' sector of Grimsby's Heritage Action Zone). Grimsby Ice Factory is currently in the hands of a new owner who has applied for planning permission to begin renovation. Great GIFT, meanwhile, has been working in association with Northeast Lincolnshire Council and Associated British Ports to bring the long-disused Peterson's Smoke House in the Kasbah back to its original use.

In 2021 GIFT was awarded £1m of grant funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Architectural Heritage Fund towards the conservation and restoration of the Peterson's building and the adjacent Building 89 to support both existing and new industries at the Port of Grimsby. The AHF provided a further £175,000 Heritage Impact Fund loan to provide working capital for the project.

Despite delays generated by COVID and lockdown, the Trust was finally able to appoint Banks Long & Co as Project Managers and come to an agreement with a tenant who will lease the property to produce Grimsby Smoked Fish* under the traditional process.

Opening up works were completed in April 2022, allowing surveyors to assess the true condition of the building. Previously inaccessible, the first floor of the smokehouse was revealed to be spacious, with the original chimney doors still in place. The chimneys - or "houses" – are layered with decades of smoke accretions, from the traditional dry smoking process. Believe-it-or-not, a good sign. With a clearer picture of the renovation work required, Great GIFT is now preparing to invite tenders for the main construction.



Due to Covid-delays, it's unlikely that the project will now be completed before 2023. However, Great GIFT hopes that positive signs will be showing by Saturday 17 September 2022 when the Kasbah will be taking part in

Heritage Open Days. Associated British Ports' new communications manager Emma Lingard has confirmed that this year's event will be open to all (ticket-timed attendees had to be bussed in from the Fishing Heritage Centre for the 2019 event).

*Traditional Grimsby Smoked Fish can only be produced in Grimsby under the traditional dry-smoking process. Despite Brexit, it has been confirmed that the EU's Protected Geographic Indicators continue to enjoy protection after 2020.

Graeme Bassett
Secretary
Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust

Photos courtesy of QED Structures – Vicky Hartung

BRANDING A PLACE TO MARKET

A recent meeting about all things 'heritage,' with aims of collating and presenting workers' stories, touched on the underlying negativity encountered when referring to an old part of Grimsby Docks as 'The Kasbah'. "Never heard of it!" "No such place!" and subsequent refusal to engage with any talk about it referring instead to stories from "down dock". Stories though are in danger of getting missed. We all know that once this happens social and cultural history becomes lost.

Today's Grimsby Dock is a thriving modern port with many modernised buildings, and as many other port towns will know, the 'modern' necessitates gatehouse security and subsequently, extremely limited public access. But the basis of Grimsby Dock, the reason for its growth into what was once the world's largest fishing port and therefore the unique heritage of Grimsby, became largely 'out of site, out of mind' by, I would say, most towns people.



Area 26 on the map is "The Kasbah"

It was a stalwart few, intent on saving Grimsby's unique contribution to the history of food preservation – the Ice Factory – that awakened many to what valuable history the town was in danger of losing. You cannot miss the huge building built on the cusp of the 20th century to produce enormous blocks of ice on an industrial scale for the

**Grimsby
Cleethorpes
& district
Civic Society**
Encouraging pride and
interest where you live

sole reason of enabling fish to be transported by train to as far away as Billingsgate fish market in London. I say 'cannot miss it' but for many years you couldn't get anywhere near it due to 'not having a good enough reason to' to get onto our dock land. Meanwhile, other old buildings fell into disrepair and crumbled. Was it intention that this should happen? Perhaps we'd better not go there!

These other old buildings built from the 1870s at the start of the burgeoning fishing industry, were added to in no organised fashion but as need dictated. As fishing commerce grew so did the supportive industries and spin-offs – all within a relatively small area defined by the layout of railway lines and dock sides and becoming a densely-packed network of buildings. Whether or not 'The Kasbah' was used as a throw-away term amongst just a few workers in that area, a definition of *kasbah* can help to visualise that old working environment:

- narrow and maze-like streets
- generally free from [car] traffic [and in some cases even motorcycle and bicycle traffic]
- unique among highly populated urban centres
- a settlement larger than a village but smaller than a city; in short, a town.

Whatever we call this part in dock history, the mis-matched buildings and diverse uses from bank to warehouse and from a trade to smokehouse to café, its buildings demonstrate well the evolution in the fishing trade and unique to the UK.

At a public meeting in 2009 at which our Civic Society took part, it was resolved to press for a "conservation area of Kasbah and its surroundings" following on from recommendation from English Heritage that a conservation area be formed to include "docks peninsula including Dock Tower, Kasbah and Dock Offices". In 2011, the term 'Kasbah' was also used in a DVD by the then owner of Alfred Enderby Fish Smokers (long-standing and still functioning within Kasbah area) when the firm gained PGI status for Grimsby Smoked Fish. And so the term was being used to denote the specific area on the docks and interest in its fight for preservation was growing.

But as we all know, 'fight' can take time with many knock-backs on the way. By 2016 the company running the *modern* docks authorised demolition of some buildings to make way for more of the modern, most notably the Cosalt Building (Cosalt continues as a business today albeit in a different form to its original business of providing **Coal**, **Salt** and **Tanning** to the fishing trawlers - the latter being waterproofing for sails and rope). However, this action no doubt was the catalyst for the designation of *The Kasbah Conservation Area* in 2017, recognising the unique set of fishing industry buildings and smokehouses. Indeed, in addition to Listing the Ice Factory, a further 8 properties are Grade II Listed with a further 11 locally Listed as being 'of special interest'. 'The Kasbah' became central to Grimsby Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) in 2017.

The problem as I see it is that how can our town's rooted history, our heritage, be reawakened by talking about *Grimsby Docks* when it lives now as a thriving commercial port, without using 'labels' such as 'The Kasbah' however much construed, to delineate a time period or a particular focus?

Without such a 'place brand' as I see *The Kasbah* as being, a coherent visual identity with a strong narrative about location, culture, history, future

aspirations and community of a place cannot be successfully told.

The task Great Grimsby has, is to get across to its inhabitants – particularly those who worked ‘down dock’ in its fishing hey-day – that a *physical place* (whether you believe it existed or not) also transcends time and space, by separating itself from the modern day. Talking about *The Kasbah* enables stories about a time the likes of which is never likely to happen again. No doubt the current dock environs will have, in time, its own story to tell but that will be for the future to record.

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Sue Milsom

Map courtesy of Alan Nicholson

CELEBRATING LOCAL HERITAGE... ...IN THE DALES

Local in that it relates to a particular area, the Yorkshire Dales has much to celebrate!

It has been home to communities and industry for a few thousand years, helping to shape much of what we now think is special. There is evidence of these previous generations of occupation, connecting past communities to the present and providing a highly visible record of the area's social and economic history.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park says that there is a culture of community spirit, self-sufficiency, determination and self-belief, which has been shaped by the area's physical environment and remoteness, nurturing self-dependency and close-knit communities.

We still celebrate livestock farming with distinct sheep breeds and a strong tradition of upland cattle rearing, still deeply interwoven into local life and culture. Livestock sales and agricultural shows play an important part in the lives of local people.

We have archaeology providing the evidence of human activity from the earliest hunters of the Palaeolithic through to twentieth century industrial remains.

We can visit the remains of former rural industries, the influences of which on the area's culture and social fabric are still evident today, including lead and lime extraction and processing sites, as well as water mills.

We can see the powerful reminders of periods of dominance by large estates and religious houses, through place names and some surviving structures, such as Bolton Castle, Bolton Abbey, Barden Tower and Marrick Priory.



We possess distinctive, traditional architecture, where the local building materials used link directly to the area's geology.

There are numerous small, attractive villages and hamlets most of which have been there for over a thousand years, as well as scattered farmsteads.

Our minor roads along the dales, bordered by drystone walls or hedgerows

and flower-rich verges are delightful to drive or cycle along. Higher up, unfenced roads cross open moorland and offer dramatic views.

An ongoing visitor attraction is always the Settle-Carlisle Railway Line, opened in 1876, which is unique and displays impressive engineering and conserved Midland Railway architecture and offers a very special way of enjoying the dramatic landscape along its route.

Last, but not least, we have a distinctive linguistic, literary and artistic heritage, inspired by the landscape and by the history of the communities, past and present, who have lived and worked here.

The Dales Countryside Museum at Hawes is now up and running again post Covid. It is a great place to visit for visitors and locals and offers all kinds of events throughout the year, which specialise in celebrating all things “Dales”.

As part of the Dialect and Heritage Project, it is partnering with Ryedale Folk Museum to provide activities in each North Yorkshire Library in May, to celebrate their local history. People are encouraged to visit their library to contribute their local dialect words and to pick up a free family friendly activity pack inspired by the words recorded in the 1950 Survey of English Dialect.

Throughout the coming months, The Museum is offering a variety of things, such as demonstrations of traditional rug making, patchwork and other textile techniques and of Drystone Walling.

“In The Kitchen Dairy” days, where visitors can join Mrs H in the traditional Dales Farmhouse Kitchen and discover the history of dairying and how making cheese and butter have changed through the ages. On other days, she will also explain more about “bringing the drinkings” during hay time when farming families brought out food and drinks to the workers in the fields.

Walks led by guides which explore the Barns, Walls and Bridges in Herriot country over Upper Wensleydale. Another explores the history of Hawes and the village of Gayle, discovering the origins of Wensleydale cheese, seeing where the railway once went and following a section of the Pennine Way.

Talks include an illustrated one by author David Joy about Trees in the Dales. Another is by Paul Sutton from the Abbey Museum in Queensland, Australia as he discusses the Aysgarth Documents that form part of their collection. These documents were gifted to the museum in the 1990s by descendants of the Tunstall family of Aysgarth who moved to Australia after WW2. Paul will explain the local history value of this collection which dates from the early 17th century and which includes various land tenure documents, apprentice indentures, wills, inventories, personal letters and even an excommunication letter! He will also explain the Museum’s plans to make digital copies of the entire collection available online, as well as their plans to create a website to showcase the collection and place them in their historical and social context. This presentation forms part of their outreach initiative to connect with local communities around the world that have a connection with items in its extensive collection.

See more exciting events at <https://www.dalescountrysidemuseum.org.uk>





STORIES FROM ADDINGHAM'S PHOTO ARCHIVE

CHANGES SINCE THE QUEEN CAME TO THE THRONE

The two biggest single changes to the life in the village over the last 70 years were in the transport infrastructure: the closure of the railway in the 1960 and the opening of the bypass in 1990.

An Addingham bypass was first mooted way back in the 1930s – the proposal then being for a road more or less on the line of Back Beck Lane, linking Ilkley Road to Bolton Road and Skipton Road.

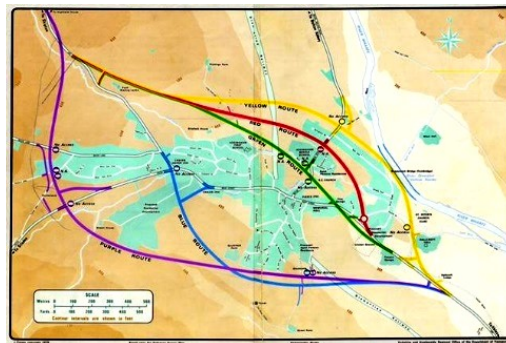
That plan was scuppered by the onset of war but as the country's prosperity recovered the traffic multiplied causing horrendous conditions along Main Street with mothers pushing prams having to cower in doorways for safety as huge trucks thundered past.

It was not until the 1970s that the bypass plans were finally revived, after much campaigning by residents and the Parish Council, with a consultation document being published in 1979 which included a map (see below) showing five possible routes and asking comments. You will see from the map that they include three routes to the north of the village and two to the south, but it was the most southerly, purple, route which was finally chosen, with strong support from the Civic Society, even though it was the longest and most expensive (£3.6m) option.

Even then, it wasn't until July 1987 that final Government approval was given.

The bypass was opened just two years after construction started, by the Minister of Transport Christopher Chope, on 16 October 1990.

The picture (right) shows the consultation map; below shows the huge amount of earth moving underway and the third shows the opening parade when the minister drove a 1913 charabanc through a tape draped across the carriageway.



For many more photos and a video of the opening scan the QR Code

RICHMOND 950TH A CELEBRATION OF OUR CASTLE AND TOWN

It all began with a sudden thought over a cup of coffee 2021 was going to be the 950th birthday of Richmond Castle. How could this idea be developed and celebrated across the town, to include all ages and many organisations? A small team of three managed to get all this going.

Funding was the first issue: where could that come from? The Original Richmond Business Tourism Association pledged their next three years' funds; Lottery funding was applied for, but Covid stopped the flow of grants - rather a large blow; the local Council awarded a grant; the Civic Society donated a sum to help with the archaeology at the Castle and the Castle Studies Fund also donated a sizeable amount. The rest was raised from generous donations. Finally, it looked as though the whole celebration would go ahead.



The Castle sits in an imposing position overlooking the River Swale and in an excellent defensive position. A ground-penetrating survey was produced in 2009, revealing many features some of which were known about, including the shape of the 19th century barrack block which is revealed even today after a spell of dry weather. The survey also revealed many anomalies which needed to be explored further.

The Civic Society's funding really helped the archaeological work to go ahead over a three-week period in summer 2021. Volunteers were needed and people applied to join the dig from far and wide, including some of our own members. They showed great interest and enthusiasm and possibly had a bit of backache at the end of the day. Many animal bones, some from more exotic species, were found, and also examples of medieval pottery, some from the north of England as well as from France. One of the most exciting finds was a silver penny from the time of William the Conqueror, the coin possibly minted shortly after the Norman Conquest or just after the Harrying of the North. The coin was found on the day when the 'Digging for Britain' team were on site filming with Professor Alice Roberts - a chance find and recorded on the programme



As well as supporting the archaeology project, the Civic Society based its annual programme of twelve lectures around the project 950th theme: beginning with Richmond from the Stone Age to the Normans then looking at the early years of the Castle, moving on to Gunnhild 'married to Alan Rufus 1st Lord of Richmond, then to paintings of Richmond, the history of racing in Richmond, moving down the centuries and ending finally with the review of the archaeology project. Because of Covid, many of the lectures had to be delivered by Zoom, organised by one of our very technology-savvy members; afterwards the lectures were able to be watched on the society's website. Reports by all the lecturers have been put together into a special Richmond Civic Society Review which will be published in the summer ... a permanent record of a memorable year.

Despite being fraught with all the difficulties that came with Covid, the Richmond 950th celebrations were a great success, all started off by a question over a cup of coffee: how do we celebrate Richmond Castle's 950th birthday?

Carol Hillyard

Photos courtesy of C Hillyard



KNARESBOROUGH'S HERITAGE... ...PAST AND PRESENT

We're talking about celebrating heritage in this issue and Knaresborough must acknowledge that it has much to thank Royalty for in terms of the town's heritage, but it doesn't end there!

From round about 1158 as the monarchy's grip tightened, the Honour of Knaresborough was awarded to a local Constable. Previously, mesne lords held liberties, it was all very feudal and perhaps a little 'disorganised'. As one guidebook puts it, local folk relieved the common round (everyday drudge of serfdom) with events which "*often attracted poor reputations for the drunkenness and immorality involved.*"

But the Honour of Knaresborough brought with it Royal patronage and soon the forest surrounding Knaresborough was better managed and much coveted for its hunting.

At some point the fortified hunting lodge which sat atop a craggy bluff was transformed into a more exclusive summertime 'des-res' retreat purely for royal incumbents - and there it sat for a few hundred years until eventually succumbing to Cromwell's anti-Royalist forces in 1644. A few years later nearly the entire circuit of the curtain wall and all internal structures, save the courthouse and part of the King's Tower, were destroyed and the moat was filled in. The surrounding forest landscape had by then been irreversibly transformed by deforestation and eventually in 1770 an act of Enclosure broke up and separated ownership of the remains of the forest.

But thanks to Cromwell, the Royals had left it all behind and to be fair they haven't been back much since.



Some of the woods and trees of the forest remain, albeit in much smaller quantities but interestingly we might yet see a return to previous numbers, because there is a national reappraisal of the need for woodland planting and forests.

This is due in part to help with climate change & flood alleviation, but importantly there are significant benefits to recreation, tourism, the provision of jobs and crucially too, our wellbeing.

So the Government is backing the Northern Powerhouse in its aim to plant 50 million trees over 25 years. The Yorkshire part of this Northern Forest will be known as the White Rose Forest and the local council is fully committed to supporting tree planting locally.

There are over 30 attractions to visit in the Knaresborough Forest location covering woodland walks, historic buildings and cultural centres, which is one reason why the civic society supports the setting up of a new visitor centre to help promote the district and its heritage.

Playing-hard round here was one thing but over the years there has been hard-work too which has contributed to our heritage. Most notably with some significant precedents in technology originating here.



Did you know for example, one of the country's earliest fire engines was stationed here in 1744 (it's still on display in the Courthouse Museum by the way) and was followed twenty years later by the installation of a sophisticated piped water supply into town from nearby reservoirs. To put that into context, water used to be hauled by donkeys up the hill in bags prior to the special act of Parliament which allowed pipes to be laid.



And did you know we had our own gas works here which produced gas to light some of the nation's very first street gas lamps in 1823?

And all praise to the owner of the former paper mill for converting it in 1791 to cotton & then subsequently to linen weaving, the quality of which earned a Royal warrant from Queen Victoria & a special award for the very first seamless woven shirt in 1851.

And gloriously of course, in John Metcalf- more commonly known as Blind Jack - the town & nation had a civil engineer whose prodigious road building accomplishments completely rewrote the existing book of techniques and its perhaps not too outlandish to claim that he changed the lives & destiny of the entire North of England in the run up to the industrial revolution.

And there the story of Knaresborough's history in the guidebooks usually ends.

Except it doesn't actually end there.

What about the future?

Today, the business & employment landscape in Knaresborough is exciting and innovative.

Contemporary Knaresborough is on the brink of new growth, which will bring development and opportunity, propelled by our forward-facing business community across our town centre & business, technology & retail parks.

As a strategic trading post with a hard-grafting ethos, Knaresborough has always been attractive to a different type of entrepreneur; someone who values a place with an independent spirit.

The great thing is that with our strong association with the past, we are all part of a fabric that, over centuries, has been woven into an expanding economic and social tapestry, capable of supporting growth, creating opportunity & crucially having fun!

Andrew Grinter

HERITAGE BUILDINGS –THEIR FATE WITHIN THE PLANNING SYSTEM



Dronfield is a town with many historic buildings. It has three Conservation Areas and recently, after a gap of seven years, the local authority appointed a Conservation Officer.

Whilst this is excellent news for the town with the prospect of having its Character Statements updated since their creation in the early 2000s, the Civic Society has increasing concerns that the fate of a building is entirely dependent upon the sort of treatment it receives within the planning system. Whether a planning application is decided by the delegated powers of Planning Officers or 'called in' for debate by the Planning Committee (made up of Councillors) has impacted the fate of two heritage buildings in the town.

Both buildings are listed in the Dronfield Neighbourhood Plan as character buildings of heritage interest.



The building pictured above was the first bank in the town, a rather grand building with a listed building of similar style nearby. It suffered the fate of a planning application being submitted during the first Covid-19 lockdown and was the victim of missing site notices, being missed off weekly planning listings and notifications to all immediate neighbours being questionable. The application was to create six apartments within the building with no off-street parking provision. Highways as a Statutory Consultee raised no safety concerns yet the building is situated at a very busy junction, close to one of the town's largest Primary Schools. The application was approved by Planning Officers before the Civic Society even knew it was in the planning system. There was little or no consideration of the heritage and character features of the building and at that time the Conservation Officer was not in post.

Consequently this heritage building has suffered modifications to the fenestration, the addition of dormers and the inevitable use of UPVC. The implications of six apartments with no allocated parking are yet to be felt as the apartments near completion.

The building pictured right is an interesting, quirky feature of the streetscape known locally as Dronfield Bottom Conservation Area. Formerly an office and stores as demonstrated by a stone plaque, it lies opposite a listed structure. Recently a planning application was submitted for change of use to a hot food takeaway with major alterations to the frontage, an



industrial extraction flue and an illuminated sign. The application received objections from residents, the Town Council, the Civic Society and the Conservation Officer who concluded the works proposed would harm the character and appearance of the host (historic) building and in turn, the Dronfield Conservation Area. Residents and Councillors raised issues around loss of amenity through noise, litter and odour as there are residences close by and at a higher level behind the building suitably located to receive the odours from the flue. The building is located on the main road through the town, next to a zebra crossing, on the zigzag lines of that crossing where the pavement is very narrow, on a school walking route and opposite a difficult junction. It couldn't be a more inappropriate place for a takeaway with the deliveries and collections that would result from this particular change of use. The application was 'called in' by a local Councillor to be debated by the Planning Committee. Planning Officers recommended approval based on Highways raising no safety issues and despite Environmental Health Officers being of the opinion that there could be significant implications for residents of noise and odour, the Officers argued they could be mitigated by condition. The Planning Committee identified a string of policies in both the newly adopted Local Plan and the Dronfield Neighbourhood Plan which the application contravened. They rejected the application overwhelmingly.

It is also worth mentioning that Planning Officers approved the demolition of a historic building in a nearby village. Again the Planning Committee reversed the decision. This application is now at Appeal. The Conservation Officer produced a lengthy report for the Appeal identifying the structure as a non-designated heritage asset. The fate of this one hangs in the balance, but had it not been for the Planning Committee, it would already have been demolished to be replaced by four terraced town houses.

What this piece illustrates is the absolute benefit of having a Conservation Officer in post, but also how fragile is the fate of so many buildings as they pass through the planning system. It also raises the question of whether Civic Societies should have Statutory Consultee status.

Dronfield Civic Society has written this piece in order to find out whether other civic societies are experiencing similar as we attempt to Celebrate and Protect Local Heritage.

Jane Singleton

CIVIC SOCIETY'S INVESTIGATIONS INTO WETHERBY'S LOST HISTORY

In 2021, West Yorkshire Archaeological Service (WYAS) investigated land adjacent to Wetherby called Swinnow Park where Taylor Wimpey have planning permission to build 800 houses.

They found evidence of a Romano-British farm and of a building identified as Swinnow Hall (see photograph). These were excavated and, working with Wetherby Civic Society, an open day was arranged in January 2022, when on a murky cold day, over 100 people turned out to hear about the site and to view the finds. WYAS agreed that Wetherby Civic Society should investigate, with their input, the history of Swinnow Hall, a previously forgotten part of Wetherby history.



As a result of our investigation, we now know that Swinnow (meaning Swine Hill) was owned by the Knights Templar and their heirs, the Knights Hospitallers, along with much of Wetherby. Upon the dissolution of the monasteries in 1540, their land became the possession of the Crown, but whilst Wetherby and many of its nearby fields, reverted to the ownership of the Percys, the Earls of Northumberland in 1552, Swinnow

came into the possession of Christopher Estofte a lawyer from Scarborough, who in 1562 also bought the adjacent Ingmanthorpe estate. The story of Swinnow and Ingmanthorpe are subsequently closely entwined.

A map of 1771 shows a house called Swinnow and the subsequent map for the sale of Wetherby in 1824, shows Swinnow as belonging to Richard Fontayne Wilson, an extremely wealthy landowner who built Ingmanthorpe Hall in the early 1800s.

Wilson died in 1847 and left all his estate to his son, Andrew, who had added the surname Montagu. Swinnow Hall seems to have been a country mansion which the family rented out to wealthy middle-class families. The archaeology seems to bear this out with small amounts of decorated plaster being found. Identified residents between 1841 and 1891 include a land agent, a JP landowner, and finally a manufacturer from Halifax, with between 6 and 9 servants.

Andrew Montagu rented out Ingmanthorpe Hall during the early years of his ownership, only taking up residence by 1881.

Around 1880, a new drive was constructed connecting Swinnow Hall to the Wetherby to York turnpike, which had been built in the 1820s, and a gatehouse erected. Subsequently, the decision seems to have been made to connect Ingmanthorpe Hall to the Wetherby to York turnpike. At some time between 1893 and 1901, Swinnow Hall was razed to the ground, and its drive extended over the edge of the building to provide this connection. The new drive was lined with an avenue of trees, which can be seen to this day.

Our research has not ended, as we do not know of the history of the Hall between 1562 and 1771, and also who destroyed the Hall as Montagu died in 1895 and thus it may have been either he or his successor who ordered it. We would love to have a photograph or drawing of the Hall but have not traced any so far.

Today, Ingmanthorpe Hall has been converted into apartments, Swinnow Hall foundations are about to be built over and interestingly, farm labourer cottages at nearby Swinnow Hill have become a mansion.

**Peter Catton
Vice Chairman,
Wetherby Civic Society**



WHEN SELBY WAS AUCTIONED!

Fancy buying a substantial part of central Selby? Like to buy a bank - or a hotel?

Had you been around at 2.00 pm on 25th July 1905 with a wad of money in your pocket you would have had a chance to purchase one or more of 46 properties at an auction held in the Londesborough Arms Hotel – now renamed the George Inn - in Selby's Market Square.

As the auction brochure (right) proudly claimed, it was to be a sale of “The Best Portion of the Town of Selby.” Auctioned off by Messrs. Driver, Jonas & Co. of 23 Pall Mall, London, it went on to state “The various properties have been carefully lotted to suit the convenience of Manufacturers and Tradesmen desirous of acquiring premises for Trade purposes, and well deserve every consideration for their attraction as a business centre in this thriving locality.

The seller was William Francis Henry Denison, the 2nd Earl of Londesborough.

On offer were a staggering number of properties:

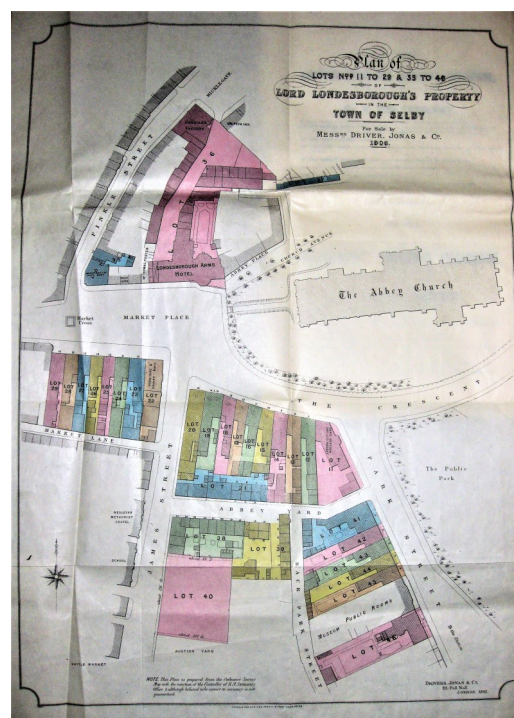
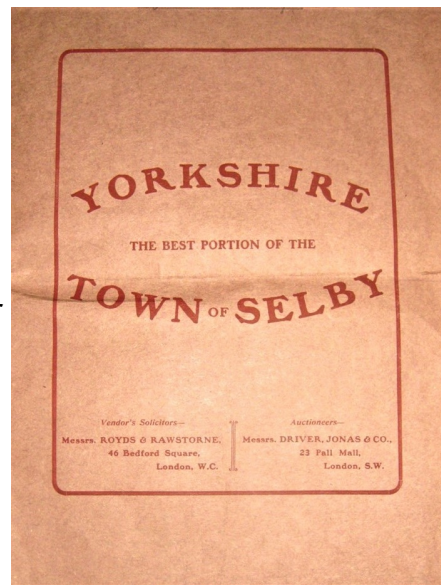
“15 Freehold shops with Dwellings over; 3 Excellent well-positioned Banks; the extensive and well-known Londesborough Arms Hotel; Five Capital Private Residences in the Crescent facing the grand old Abbey Church and Six in Park Street; Two Shops in Finkle Street; Two small premises in Ousegate; the extensive Implement Premises called Ousegate Iron Works; Wharf on the River Ouse; Capital Residence with some rich meadow land on the Thorpe Road; Numerous blocks of Cottage Property and Building sites all let at very modest rents....as well as valuable Private House Property in this delightful district.”

31 of these lots were in the Market Place, Park Street and Finkle Street area, as shown on the map.

Newspapers reported that there was a very large attendance at the sale, with press interest from as far away as Leeds and Sheffield.

Many of the lots were purchased by the sitting tenants.

A Mr. George Stublely of Carlton secured No.10 (a cabinet makers shop) and No.12 (a grocer's shop) in The Crescent for £825 (£99,000 in today's money) and £1025



(£124,000) respectively. The York City and County Banking premise in the Market-place – where the recently closed NatWest Bank was – was bought by that company for £1800 (£217,000).

It's reported that there was keen competition for no.15 Market-place – house and shop – occupied by Mr. A H Tyson, ironmonger – who purchased it for £1300 (£157,000). Rather cheaper were a range of old buildings with warehouses near Church Avenue bought by Bentley's Yorkshire Breweries for just £55 (£6,600). Lot 36, the Londesborough Arms Hotel, attracted no bids and was unsold. Several lots were sold by private treaty prior to the sale.

In total, £16,660 was raised, equivalent to over £2M in today's money. Quite a sale!

William Denison died in 1917.

David Moss

BEVERLEY & DISTRICT CS – JOINING CIVIC VOICE DAY

STUDY DAY SATURDAY 18TH JUNE 2022



'One Town – Two Churches' The Heritage Legacy from the extensive restoration of our town's iconic medieval buildings.

Beverley Minster - 9.30 a.m.

The Stained Glass of Beverley Minster: Conservation and Protection
Prof Sarah Brown FSA, York Glazier Trust

The West Window will take centre stage during this illustrated talk. It will remind us that glass has been around for thousand of years and is a truly ubiquitous material very much taken for granted.

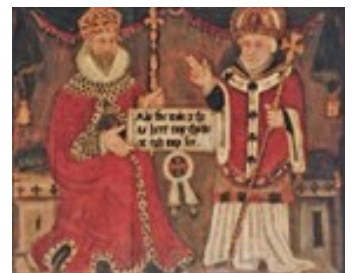
In this way, we are joining the declaration of naming '2022 Year of the Glass' by the United Nations. The list of uses and applications is truly endless.



Beverley Minster – 11.15 a.m.

The Minster Sanctuary Project – a Practical Workshop
Anna Knowles and Cathy Thornton, Community Learning Officers

938 King Athelstan endowed the Minster with the 'right of sanctuary' extending 2 miles from St. John of Beverley's tomb – a privilege, which attracted many fugitives and pilgrims to the town. Apart from telling this story, giving sanctuary is relevant today. Anna and Cathy will give an insight into their work in engaging teachers and youngsters in Primary schools.



St. Mary's Church, Beverley – 2.00 p.m.

The Narnia Carvings: Meet the Masons and Designers
Matthias Garn, Master Mason & Partner, York

Brought up in Dresden, Germany and following a family tradition, Matthias worked for 6 years throughout Europe. He moved to England and set up his own business in York in 2000. He has an MA in Historic Conservation. Additional to many professional awards, he is also a Freeman of the City of London. See more restoration and design projects see: <http://www.matthiasgarn.com>. The workshop maintains a strong link with the German apprenticeship system, whereby travel is considered an integral part of learning a craft.



Please email: elapensee@gmx.com for more information and for a booking form.

Eva La Pensée
Beverley & District Civic Society - Public Events Coordinator



Reg. Charity No. 1112290

www.yhacs.org.uk

Please send any articles,
comments, letters or
questions to the editor:

Sat 18th June - Civic Voice's "Civic Day"

YHACS Autumn Meeting – Details to be confirmed

9th - 18th September - Heritage Open Days

NEXT YHACS MEETING

SATURDAY 11TH JUNE 1.00 - 4:00 PM

MEMBERS MEETING AT

WOODEND, THE CRESCENT, YO11 2PW, SCARBOROUGH

GUEST SPEAKERS :

**ANDREW CLAY, CE, SCARBOROUGH MUSEUMS TRUST
ADRIAN PERRY, PRESIDENT, SCARBOROUGH & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY**

CONTACT: KEVIN TRICKETT - INFO@YHACS.ORG.UK

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**The Yorkshire and
Humber Association of
Civic Societies (YHACS)
is the distinct voice of the
civic society
movement in the
Yorkshire and Humber
region, and our vision is
to enhance the quality of
life for all citizens in the
region by engaging
citizens not only in the
protection of local
heritage but also in the
promotion of sustainable
economic development
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