

Newark Civic Trust

MAGAZINE

Caring about the town's environment

Issue 61



CONTENTS

Newark Civic Trust Magazine

Editor Gillie Wilkinson

Photographs by George Wilkinson and Bill Davidson

Design by Distraction

Print Willsons Printers

Content is kindly provided by various contributors

Cover Photo by George Wilkinson

Executive Committee Members

Chairman: Mr George Wilkinson

Vice Chairman: Mr Peter Duncan

Secretary: Mr Rupert Vinnicombe

Treasurer: Ms Amanda Ferguson

Chairman of Planning: Mr Bill Davidson

To contact the Chairman phone 01636 671413

Foreword 03

A few words from the Chairman

Newark and Sherwood Book 04

May Visit to Leicester Trader 06

Still More Maltings 08

Recruitment 10

Planning 11

ASHTAV 15

Leaflet Launch 16

Norman Brown 18

June Visit to Tuxford Windmill 20

Dates for your Diary 22



Sponsorship

design@distraction

Design by Distraction Tel: 01636 678067



Willsons Printers Tel: 01636 702334

A few words from The Chairman

By now almost all of you will have noticed the transformation of the Woolpack, much of its former glory now on show as was originally intended. Gone is the dreadful render, which had concealed the timber frame beneath. Covering the timber in this way can spell disaster for timber, any trapped moisture providing ideal conditions for rot. Fortunately in this instance, this was not the case; the timbers are in remarkably good condition. Sadly, the internal timbers which still displayed wonderful carpenters' marks, was covered, by the last "refurbishment" with blood red Artex, the removal of which has led to damage to the marks.



Chairman of Newark Civic Trust
Mr George Wilkinson

The present owner has three successful and tasteful restorations behind him, two in the Stamford area and one at Uppingham. In an Advertiser report he is quoted as wanting to change the name from Woolpack due to its association with Emmerdale. A letter to the developer was sent, pointing out that the name had important local significance, wool being an important contributor to Newark's earlier prosperity. The letter remains unanswered! We could also have pointed out that Emmerdale's Woolpack is a successful pub.

Suffice to say that we are pleased that the three previous restorations mentioned earlier are tasteful and successful. Let us hope that even if our plea for retention of the name Woolpack remains unheeded, the new name is not as daft as the change to the Queen's Head.

Still on a serious note, as old age and poverty reap their harvest, our committee has become uncomfortably small. We urgently need new members to join our happy band. The tasks we perform are not arduous. Committee meetings last for about an hour and a half once a month. Members are entitled to sit in on any of our committee meetings as observers, and are encouraged to do

so. A number of you do attend Trust planning meetings and very welcome you are too.

No particular skills or qualifications are necessary but your life experiences would, I'm sure, be an asset. When I joined, I knew nothing and nobody. Now I know a great many people, but I'm still the country bumpkin that I always was; just older.

It has been noted that a number of members have not renewed their subscriptions to the Trust. If you are one of these, please do it now!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Wilkinson".

Newark and Sherwood

Legends and Landscapes

Back in February 2009 an enquiry from Tim Warner, Local Studies Librarian at Newark Library, sparked off a series of events the likes of which I have never experienced before and probably never will again. His question, "Would I be interested and better still, willing to write a book about Newark and its environs?" was met with an immediate 'yes,' although not normally given to impulsive decisions this was most uncharacteristic; after all opportunity knocks just once.

It was to be anecdotal and quirky with a historical bias – right up my street indeed. There were to be thirty paintings by a local artist, identified later as Penny Veys from Upton, whom I had met on a few occasions, as an acquaintance of Gill's it's true, but it made life slightly easier. Separately we each drew up a list of suitable possibilities to paint, met and selected scenes that appeared on both lists and work commenced, although very slowly. March was cold, wet and miserable, all counter productive for a watercolour artist. Admittedly Penny can and does use colour photography, but leaden skies and poor light don't support taking inspirational pictures either.

Meanwhile a start was made writing a page to accompany each picture. First thoughts were 'easy'; it's just that little six-letter word quirky. In reality to fulfil that criteria is more difficult. In any case, history was part of the brief, not deep academic stuff. A blend seemed ideal. Byron's lame-foot limp and a quirk of the Kirk and Newark Races at Coddington, all perfectly factual but definitely not mainstream history. The Irish publisher was delighted. "Just what we want!" he exclaimed in his unmistakable northern Irish accent. "When am I going to get the next instalment?" The pressure was on!

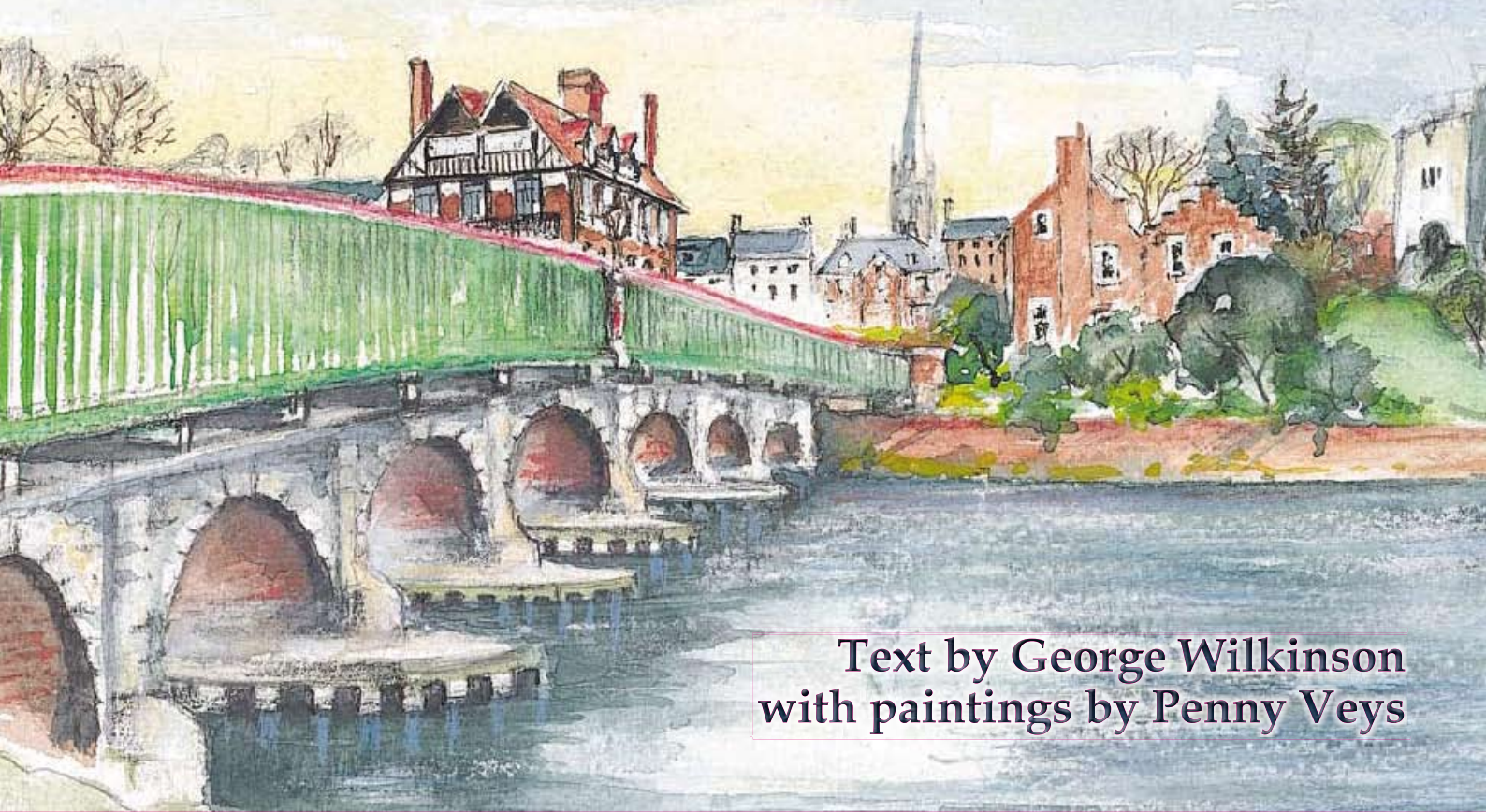
Most Newark subjects were fairly well known, only odd facts here and there needing to be checked,

although finding the right source of reference was not so easy to achieve as to imagine. On occasion memory would prove ineffectual. The reference was not where it was thought to be. Michael Honeybone, a tutor of mine in times gone by, used to say, "Always write down the reference and keep it safe." Fine words indeed; "otherwise it can become like a medieval treasure hunt." How true! His subliminal voice echoed in the brain on several occasions as a mental picture appeared of his gesticulating finger as he stressed the point.

Compared with Newark, knowledge of the villages and hamlets was, to say the least, scant. How wonderful then that the combination of the millennium and the jubilee should

Newark & Sherwood

—*Landscapes and Legends*—



**Text by George Wilkinson
with paintings by Penny Veys**

be so recent. An almost universal inspiration to most settlements resulted in a plethora of village histories; long, medium and short; good, bad and hardly adequate. They do collectively or severally make interesting reading, a thoroughly commendable pastime. Information garnered from them, together with anecdotes collected from villagers, an essential part of the instructions, was a riveting experience; their use was an invaluable source.

Eventually, all thirty paintings were complete, as were the seventeen and a half thousand words or so, and almost twice that number typed in by Gillian if edits and rewrites are included. Time now to relax. Forget it! PDF images of the printed word were emailed for proof reading. No

panic there. The corrected script was not wanted until next Monday. More mid-night oil!

Then finally draft copies of two possible front covers were emailed, copied into this article. It was a unanimous decision that the bridge, castle and The Ossington was the more appropriate one. Even if you think the Kelham picture would have been better, it's too late now!

The book is on sale as I write, although the official launch and signing will not be until October 21st at unit 16 of the Town Hall, the far right hand corner next to the card shop when viewed from the Market Place.





May Visit to The Leicester Trader

Seventeen of us turned up at Les Reid's house, juggled the car parking and walked down the side of his house, past the ducks basking in the evening sunshine on his lawn, and down to the water's edge. Tied up to the mooring at the bottom of his garden is The Leicester Trader, an old trading barge.

"Doesn't look very big," were the remarks going round. "How on earth are they going to make that into a museum?"

Les gave us a short talk as most of us had been at his library talk, and then invited us to go on board, but warned us that entry was via a steep ladder and to watch our hands, as there were splinters. Eventually entrance will be at both sides, with proper stairs and wheelchair access, but meantime it's hang on like grim death, cock your legs, one at a time over the top of the ladder, not looking down, remembering to watch out for splinters and grit your teeth.

You all know what the Tardis is. I think that was the expression used by almost all of those who ventured down. Inside is a vast empty space; everything had been ripped out exposing the metal rivets in the bow and stern, but revealing welded joints in the side plates. This boat was built at the changeover between the old rivet technology

and the new welding process.

Up on the walls were posters and information boards with the history, photographs and proposals along with a laminated copy of the "Friends of the Leicester Trader" leaflet (which Les handed out when we left), stating individual members £10, family membership, £15.

Once down, Les explained all the technical bits and what was going to go where, and which bits were going to be left exposed (like some of the rivets) so that the history of the actual boat is kept alive as well as all sorts of river memorabilia and barging history displayed and at the same time allowing student groups to learn about the development of shapes together with subjects like technical drawing.

We had a lovely evening, the weather was kind, and we learnt a lot more about one of the reasons our town is where it is.

To say the man is passionate about the subject is an understatement.

He lives and breathes it! This was borne out when George and I attended the open day at the same venue just two weeks later. Access, which had previously been awkward, was now by fully formed steps, the handrail, which was now quite smooth had been painted, as had the steps and floor. The latter had been levelled too. The transformation was absolutely incredible. Fluorescent lights, lying stacked on the floor on the first visit were now fitted and wired. The Tardis now appeared even more spacious.

The official inaugural meeting of the Friends group will take place soon, probably in November.





Still More Maltings

The estate papers of the Dukes of Newcastle at University of Nottingham contain a wealth of information. Sometimes a welter of facts will be revealed but on other visits little will be found or is incomplete. Similarly, walks around town can be fruitful or otherwise.

In Middle Gate, opposite Boar Lane, what is now the phone shop is built on the site of the Spread Eagle pub. Indeed behind the premises, some of the original buildings still exist, pressed into modern usage. Attached to the rear is the stable block, probably with hayloft over. Behind that, a little further up the yard, three walls of what were the malt floors now enclose the car park. Close examination of the photographs will reveal that the malting was of two storeys; the ground floor window opening still remains complete with wrought iron bars. Evidence exists regarding the premises in 1830's so obviously the buildings predate this. Although constructed in the usual 3:1 proportions (length: width), the footprint is miniscule when compared to those of Gilstrap's or Branston's built just prior to 1900.



Malthouses behind the Bridge Street shop now occupied by Martin Wilkinson silversmith were subject of an item in issue 58 of the magazine. The evidence produced on that occasion were several vertiginous photos taken from the top of St. Mary's tower. A ground floor inspection now enables me to confirm that this was Joseph Branston's first venture into malting shortly after completing his apprenticeship. My unexpected visit was a fleeting one. A longer visit is planned when hopefully I will be able to solve some of the mysteries that still remain.

Lastly, an application to support the granting of listed building status for Lovers Lane maltings has been unsuccessful. The reasons given by English Heritage (EH) are that the floor workings range of buildings

is rather plain, unattractive and so much altered in the course of adaptation that interpretation is difficult. They concede that the oval wall plates, item 9 on the Malting and Brewing Heritage Trail leaflet and a subject of the AGM quiz are unusual in this area, but as they are attached to the kiln building which itself is a much more recent construction and missing the cowl to boot, is not worthy of consideration either.

The final judgement by EH is that better examples of the genre exist elsewhere – small consolation to anyone on the walk faced with a route change that takes in Ware in order to view maltings, more stylish perhaps, but that resemble the Lovers Lane example not a lot, except in the very broadest sense.

A limited search for a photograph of the Spread Eagle as it was before it was altered proved unsuccessful. If anyone knows of a picture that I could copy, or indeed anybody with memories of the pub in earlier times, please contact me.

George Wilkinson.

Membership and Recruitment

For the Trust to prosper, it is essential that we have – at worst – a stable number of members, that a decent percentage of these be active on the Trust’s behalf and that, through them, we generate sufficient funds to secure our vision and goals. So, how are we faring against these benchmarks? In terms of numbers, we have hovered around 170 individual members for many years – good but not great – whereas our partners from the business community now total 8, a great advance and all of the highest quality, and most active in fields relating to the Trust’s work. Turning to our members’ involvement, in contrast, there is scope here for real improvement as almost all the “heavy lifting” on committees, at Newark Open Day and when presenting our story to other organisations is undertaken by, at most, by 6 willing workhorses. (The exception here is our Planning Committee where as many as a dozen will turn up on a wet Monday in January to offer their views on whatever is in the development pipeline). A few more volunteers would make the world of difference: the workload is not arduous and would, of course, be reduced by its being further shared out. Moreover, whilst taking the tasks in hand seriously, we do not take ourselves so and thus a good time is had by all!

Finally, any organisation needs some money to achieve its objectives – as a Scotsman, quite naturally, I do not believe that you can ever have too much – and members’ subscriptions are by and large our sole source of income. We do everything possible to contain our subscription levels so that an increase in numbers is inevitably the means by which we build our war chest. Therefore, any family or friends that you can direct towards us would be very well received indeed.

Finally, as alluded to above, a recent development has both bolstered our reserves and enhanced our authority in Newark. Some prominent local companies have now signed up for our corporate package, endorsing our vision and bringing their expertise and experience to our discussions where appropriate. Their details will be found within the Magazine and we hope soon to create links to their websites in order that we all may get to know them better.

Members, once secured, need of course to be retained. We hope and believe that we currently offer the membership that achieves this – we appear to suffer few “casualties” – but would welcome any suggestions as to how we could up our game. We can, all of us, always do better.

Peter Duncan
Membership and Recruitment
Secretary

Planning Affairs

Information relating to planning applications is taken from Newark & Sherwood District Council's website <http://www.nsd.c.info/eplanning/>.

Newark Civic Trust accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of that information.

PROPERTY	APPLICANT	PROPOSAL	NSDC DECISION	OUR COMMENTS
Parnham's Island, Mill Gate	Mr Neil Ingham	Erection of building on the site of the former Parnham's Mill comprising 63 apartments including car parking provision below, access improvements to and from the site and provision for a hydro-electricity scheme within the existing causeway	Pending	Whilst we would welcome a high quality development on this brownfield site of a scale appropriate to the site and its surroundings, particularly as it would provide valuable public access to open space and wildlife benefits, we OBJECT to the proposal because we believe that it fails to meet reasonable aspirations in a number of areas. Please see Newark and Sherwood District Council's website for more details.
Town Hall, Market Place	Newark Town Council	Installation of external lighting fixtures to the front facade of the building	Approved	We SUPPORT the proposal
Swan and Salmon Yard, Castle Gate	Mr F Laine	Alterations and extensions to Swan & Salmon Public House and alterations to convert outbuildings to offices	Approved	We OBJECT to the proposal because the proposed new extension on the south side of the building has poor proportions and a strange decorative feature on the gable end which together neither enhance nor compliment the existing building and would adversely affect the setting of the adjacent Lock-Keeper's Cottage.
International Diamalt, Maltkiln Lane	Harlaxton Estates Ltd	Demolition of former Diamalt Buildings along with demolition of high section of roof of adjacent industrial building	Approved	We OBJECT to the proposed demolition of the original maltings (identified as buildings 5 and 6 on the associated plans) which, although badly modified, are of significant charm and character that contribute positively to the character and appearance of the area and the setting of the adjacent Newark Conservation Area. The maltings are also of historic significance in the town's development and history. Their demolition would be contrary to policies laid down in regional, county and district plans.
23 Mill Gate	Mr Thomas Carter	Change of use of premises from beauty salon to office	Approved	No comment

PROPERTY	APPLICANT	PROPOSAL	NSDC DECISION	OUR COMMENTS
47 Castle Gate	Mr J Correia	Internal alterations to existing house in multiple occupation. Minor external alterations to door and window at rear of property	Approved	Nil
Former Big W Store, Northgate Retail Park, North Gate	Limes Development Ltd	Variation of condition 5 of OUT/961189 to subdivide former 'Big W' store into up to 4 units, together with addition of mezzanine floor space, and alterations to front of elevations of existing building	Approved	We OBJECT to the proposal because it would remove any vestige of interest from the roofline, resulting in a bland, uniform appearance along the entire length of the building, with nothing (other than signage) to indicate the separate shops. This would be detrimental to the appearance of the building and the conservation area.
The Blue Man, 172 North Gate	Midlands Estates Management Ltd	Conversion of existing public house and flat to four self-contained flats and one two-storey dwelling, erection of two, two storey dwellings, associated alterations and porch addition to the listed building	Approved	We SUPPORT the proposal
31 Appleton Gate	Mr Ali Shafkat	Re-instatement of period shopfront and rear extensions on footprint of original outbuildings	Approved	We SUPPORT the proposal insofar as it represents a series of measures that may protect the building from dereliction, although we would prefer to see the western wall (with its internal angle) of the extension integrated with the existing curved boundary wall to avoid creating a void.
Travel Wright, 17 Balderton Gate	Mrs G.A. Ashton	Change of use from A1 (Retail) to A2 (Financial & Professional Services)	Approved	Nil
Newark Cemetery, London Road	Newark Town Council	Extension to cemetery	Pending	We OBJECT to the proposal because it would, apparently, remove an open green space and children's play area from public access. No mention is made of re-providing these facilities, yet figures given for the annual number of graves required indicate that the area would cater for 63 years. It seems unreasonable to take facilities away completely now when just half of the proposed area would suffice for 30+ years.
96 Appleton Gate	Parking Solutions - Mr Robert Palmer	Short stay car park for day time users to provide spaces for Newark Northgate railway station (resubmission).	Pending	We SUPPORT the proposal.
Telford Drive	Nottinghamshire CC & Veolia Es Nottinghamshire Ltd	Construction of a new household waste recycling centre and waste transfer station	Objection raised	We OBJECT to the proposal because of the likely adverse effect on the quality of life of residents of houses in Middleton Road due to the nuisances caused by noise, dust, smells and wind-borne detritus which would be present whatever mitigating design features are proposed. Furthermore, we assess the location as unsuitable because road access is restricted and difficult for large numbers of private cars via the junction with Brunel Drive.

PROPERTY	APPLICANT	PROPOSAL	NSDC DECISION	OUR COMMENTS
Trent Lane	T.T. Price, Church Lane South Muskham	Residential development (houses & apartments), riverside walk and creation of riverside park	Pending	We SUPPORT the proposal and request that the developer consider re-using the commemorative foundation stones of the old Branston's malting as a decorative feature in the "riverside park".
Hesketh House, 84 Victoria Street	Mr David Seaman	Householder application for conversion of outbuildings (former motor works and greenhouse) to home office/ studio for DJ (Retrospective)	Approved	We deplore the retrospective nature of the proposal, but have no objection.
Central Buildings, 12-14 Middle Gate	Mr Jonathan Holden	Conversion of the first floor office area into 1 no. one bedroom flat and 1 no. two bedroom flat and demolition of boundary wall to the rear	Approved	We STRONGLY SUPPORT the proposal
Holden's of Newark, 11-15 Castle Gate	Mr Jonathan Holden	Conversion of 11 Castlegate, Newark to restaurant with apartments above	Approved	We OBJECT to the proposal on the ground that it does not take advantage of the opportunity to replace the redundant large non-period doors with something more in keeping with the appearance and style of the original building. We recognise the need to have separate entrances for residents and customers of the restaurant, and therefore suggest that a window to match those in the LH bay plus a single door of the appropriate size, colour and style should be inserted with brickwork to match the original.
Newark Rowing Club, Farndon Road	Newark Rowing Club	Demolition of old club house and erection of new	Demolition approved, new build refused	We SUPPORT
29-31 Barnby Gate	Mr Shaheen Iqbal	Change of use from retail shop to 2no. dwellings and construction of 3no. single storey terraced dwellings to rear.	Refused	We OBJECT to proposed new homes to rear because development would be over intensive, poor in style and appearance and poor in quality due to lack of any view from first floor windows.
18 Balderton Gate	Pratt & Gelsthorpe Ltd	Demolition, alterations & extension to existing vehicle showrooms & ancillary office accommodation	Approved	We SUPPORT the proposal, which should smarten up an important gateway to the town centre.
Potterdyke Redevelopment Area, Lombard Street	Simons Developments Ltd	Variation of conditions attached to Conservation Area Consent (ref: 07/01462/CAC) enabling the construction of the PCT health care centre as Phase 1 of the Potterdyke redevelopment scheme without compliance with all pre-commencement conditions for entire development.	Approved	We SUPPORT
Otter Cottage, 9 Navigation Yard	Mr John Coles	Erection of garden railings	Pending	We OBJECT to the proposal because the style of the proposed railings, especially the 'spherical finials' appears inappropriate for the essentially industrial character of the building.

PROPERTY	APPLICANT	PROPOSAL	NSDC DECISION	OUR COMMENTS
Reception Building, Maltkiln Lane	Minster Veterinary Practice	Change of use from office building to a Veterinary Practice including the extension and alteration of the building and ancillary overnight accommodation for staff	Pending	Whilst we have no comment on the proposed change of use, we OBJECT to the proposal because the sheet cladding of the brick and tile building would be inappropriate in the conservation area and appears to be environmentally unsound
14 Castle Gate, Café Bleu	Mr Andrew Town	Retention of illuminated menu boxes	Pending	No comment
1 Farndon Road	NJC (Nottingham) Ltd	Demolition of existing building (tramway level crossing keeper's hut) and construction of two bedroom house with two parking spaces	Pending	We OBJECT to the proposal because the site is inappropriate for residential development, the proposed development is over-intensive, and the existing building is a link with the town's industrial past (Cafferata gypsum works) which should be retained for its heritage value
Units 2 & 3 Maltkiln Lane	Mr Steve Hampson	Change of use from Use Class B2 (general industrial) to B8 use with trade counter. Involves alterations including proposed recladding, glazing and amendments to roof height on Unit 3	Pending	No comment
The Arcade, Market Place	Parkdale Estates	Hanging bracket signage	Pending	We SUPPORT
55 Mill Gate	Mrs Elayne Forster	Change of use of front portion of residential house to tea room with small amount of plant sales from garden	Pending	We SUPPORT

ASHTAV

Who are we? ASHTAV (Association of Small Historic Towns and Villages).

ASHTAV is an organisation that works to unite amenity and civic societies, parish and town councils in small historic towns and villages throughout Britain to preserve the beauty, distinctiveness, social fabric and vitality of our historic towns.

ASHTAV encourages high standards of architecture and planning so that new developments respect the existing built environment and community life.

Above all, ASHTAV strives to encourage community pride and engagement.

We keep our members informed of developments and best practice in local government, planning, environment, housing and transport through our quarterly magazine and website and seminars.

Networking is part of the ASHTAV experience.

If you look on the ASHTAV website www.ashtav.org.uk this is the first article you will find.

Back in May, Ela Palmer and Ginny Jones from ASHTAV rang to ask if it was possible to have their AGM in Newark in October. The Civic Trust committee have met Ela on a number of occasions and were happy to oblige.

The Council Chamber at the Town Hall was booked and Sara Chadd from St. George's Trust at North Scarle asked to give a talk after the business side of the meeting.

George Wilkinson and Bill Davidson were asked to start the day off with one of their guided walks and lunch was booked at the Maze.

Newark Georgian Building Trail Launched

An important event in the Trust calendar was the launch of our latest Heritage Trail leaflet, Georgian Houses. We were very pleased to welcome as our adviser, Trust member Jeffrey Keays, who has a particular interest in Georgian architecture, although he is of course equally versed in architecture of other periods

He it was that persuaded us to move out of the town centre in order to feature the wonderful Georgian residences on South Parade and London Road. This proved to be an excellent move. In addition to drawing attention to houses less familiar and as a consequence not so publicly celebrated as those in the town centre, it also widened horizons to allow venturing beyond the "round the block" area normally featured.



As reported in Newark Advertiser, the launch went without a hitch. Waiting for a lull in the traffic proved fruitless and the photography took place regardless; well, with the exception perhaps of the Wright's bus halted at the pedestrian crossing, which did obscure the view somewhat. The constant flow of vehicles did, however, highlight how busy Castle Gate really is and was even in Georgian times when the racket of horses hooves and iron-rimmed carriage and cart wheels on the hard road surface was, no doubt, just as obtrusive as the present day cacophony.

The Trust is once again indebted to the several agencies listed on the back page of your enclosed copy of the leaflet, who have once again demonstrated their essential support in their various ways. The Georgian Trail is the fifth in our series. Number six is probably going to be Art Deco, Riverside Two being delayed due to temporary cessation of housing development alongside the river to the north of the town. Until it is resumed there is some uncertainty as to the route the Riverside Walk will eventually take.

Welcome Back, Norman!

Member Bill Davidson recently delivered his illustrated talk on ‘Art Deco Newark’ to the Chantry Group. Several members of the group subsequently decided to join the Civic Trust, among them Norman Brown (pictured right) and his wife Rosemary Robb. In conversation with Norman, Bill discovered that he was one of the Trust’s founding members and arranged to meet him to find out more:

Norman is not a native Newarker - he hails from a small village in the Stoke-on-Trent area, close to the point where the Trent rises. “There was a place where you could step across the river,” recalls Norman. He began his working life as an articled pupil to Dick Bradbury, head of the local council planning department, and progressed to become a fully qualified architect. It was Dick Bradbury who, during a stint of Saturday overtime in 1961, told Norman about a job that might suit him, further down the Trent at Hole’s Brewery in Newark. Norman liked what he heard about the job and Hole’s liked Norman - so he left the smoky Potteries and started work in the drawing office, concentrating on plans for the then-fashionable themed pubs. He remarks that the drawing office was once the brewmaster’s house and has since been converted back into a home.

In 1963, the Newark Chamber of Commerce wrote to local companies, inviting their employees under the age of 40 to form a Junior Chamber. Norman was keen to be involved and recalls that 35 people turned up to the inaugural meeting. He soon found himself elected as chairman of the Environmental Committee which had the task of identifying improvements in the town. One of these resulted in new street

lights at the pedestrian crossing on Lombard Street and another was the clearance of the market stalls - although this lapsed after a few years as we all know!

From his days in the Potteries as a council planner, Norman knew what civic societies could achieve, so in 1964 when a Junior Chamber colleague suggested that they might form a civic society in Newark, he readily agreed to put the idea forward. He arranged to

meet the then mayor, Councillor Blatherwick, who gave the idea his full support. The next step was to call a public meeting, which was held in the Sherwood Suite of the Robin Hood Hotel with the Sheriff of Norwich as guest speaker. About 50 people attended, says Norman, and Newark Civic Trust was up and running. Members of the first Executive Committee included Eric Silburn as chairman, Geoff Longland as secretary, and

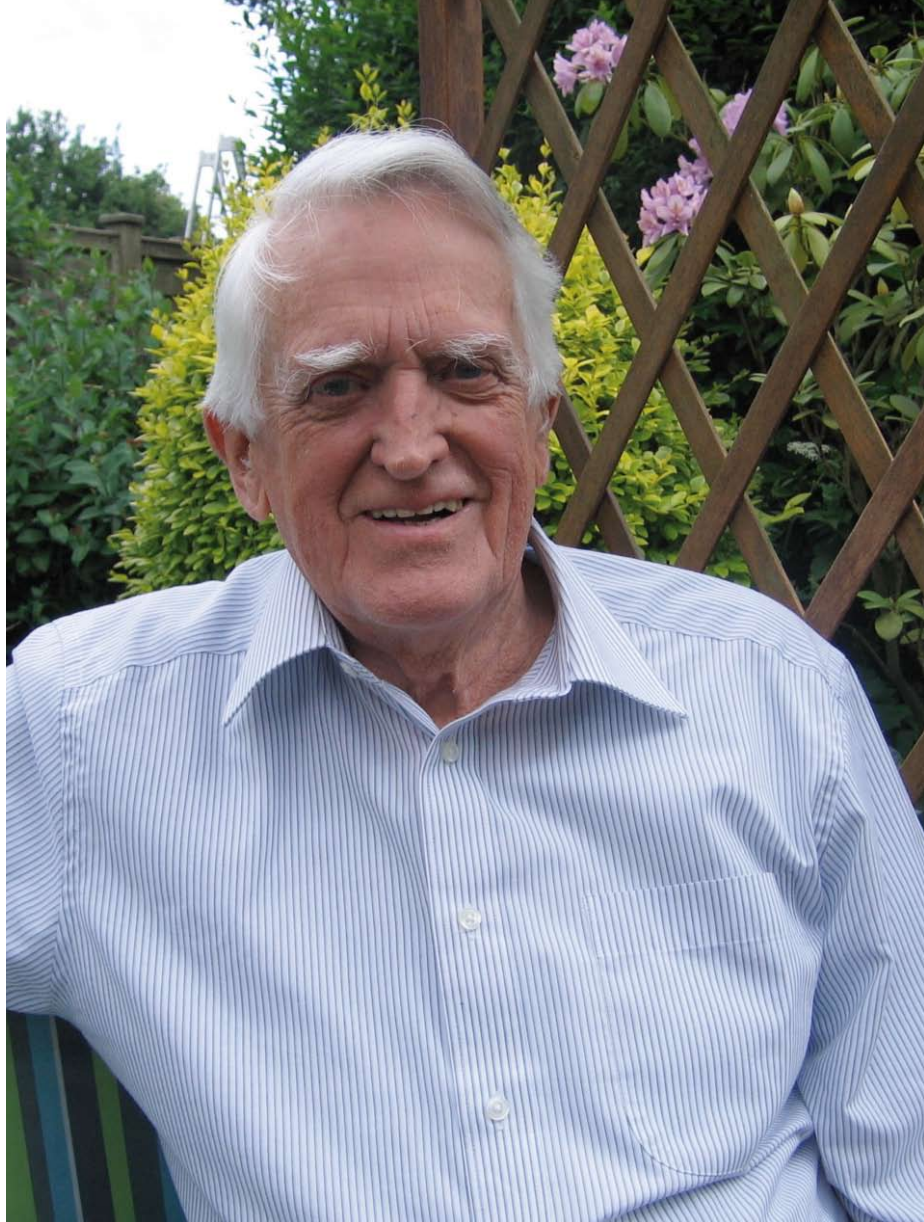
Norman (ever the willing volunteer) as treasurer. Norman has loaned the tape recording of that first NCT meeting to Tim Warner of Newark Library for transcription - we look forward to receiving a copy for the archives.

First steps for the new society included surveying the market place shops and producing a scheme to improve their appearance. The society also played its part in avoiding the town centre renovation disasters exemplified by Huntingdon and Grimsby, but Norman regrets that the eventual St Mark's Place development was not more dynamic.

NCT continued to thrive, independent from the Junior Chamber of Commerce, attracting 40 - 45 members to monthly meetings; however, at the age of 40 Norman had to stand down from the Chamber and increased work and family commitments forced him to give up his NCT duties also.

Norman worked on as an architect for Hole's then, as the brewing industry changed and consolidated, became Regional Surveyor for Imperial Inns & Taverns, operating from the new offices in Lombard Street. His final job before retirement allowed him to exercise his architectural and artistic skills in designing decorative plasterwork for, amongst other projects, Dean Park (the home of Lord Cardigan) and a shopping development in Worcester. The walls of Norman's Collingham home are adorned with examples of Norman's great skill as an artist in watercolour and oils.

Retirement was no easy option - Norman cared for his first wife during her long illness and continued to serve as a member of Collingham PCC and Parish Council as well as a church sidesman. Following his wife's death he became a volunteer driver



for the village care scheme, only recently retiring after 12 years' service. Seven years ago he married Rosemary and now is fully occupied escorting her to her numerous speaking engagements.

At long last, having relinquished Chantry Group commitments, there is space in Norman and Rosemary's diary for them to join NCT. It is a pleasure to welcome them aboard and we thank our founder member for his interesting recollections of NCT's early days. We're sure he'll recognise many of our current concerns - not least the Robin Hood, where we now know it all began.



June Visit to Tuxford Windmill

On a warm June night, 16 of us visited Tuxford Windmill. Restored by the Ostick family, it now belongs to Paul and Fari Wyman, who bought it and have turned it into a successful business and tourist attraction.



Several years ago we had a talk by Mr. Ostick and also a visit. This latest visit allowed us to sit in the newly extended tearooms and eat freshly baked by Fari, scones with jam and cream and plentiful cups of tea and coffee.

Paul told us to go up the windmill first if we wanted to see the wheat being ground, as the wind was going to drop soon. The wind was blowing enough to turn the sails and we went up to see the grain dropping down onto the grinding wheels.

Sitting in the tearooms soon afterwards, sure enough, the wind dropped.

Paul told us about their backgrounds and how they came to buy the windmill. Since the extension they have been open 5 days a week, shutting on Wednesdays, and opening on Thursdays for group visits. That's the theory. Groups are given the choice of Wednesday or Thursday but so many want to come that often they come both days.

They hold several open days with entertainment, craft fairs, jazz and Pilgrim Father fairs and took part in the Tuxford Festival in July.

As well as all this, Paul does seven farmers markets a month.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2009-2010

October 29th

Mike Corby

19th Century Clocks and Watches

November 28th

David Amos

The History of Nottinghamshire Coalfield

December

No Meeting

Merry Christmas

January 28th

Peter Hammond

**Middens & Muck.
A fascinating look into the treasures of muck**

February 25th

Dave Bullen

**Principal Conservation Officer NSDC
Current Conservation Issues in Newark**

March 25th

John Field

The Work of The Air Ambulance

April 29th

Paul Reid

**Insurance Fire Marks What They Are And Where
To Look**

**All talks are confirmed but telephone 01636 671413
if you are concerned**

May 27th

**A Visit to Lincoln Guildhall (Home of Lincoln City
Council, next to The Stonebow) TBC**

June 24th

A Visit to Upton Horological Institute TBC

TBC = To Be Confirmed



Kindly sponsored by
Design by Distraction, Willsons Printers



Design Advertising
Marketing Artists Impressions
PR & Copy Writing Computer Generated Images
Websites Site Identity

Newark Office t: 01636 678067
Lincoln Office t: 01522 515044