

Newark Civic Trust

MAGAZINE

Caring about the town's environment

Issue 82 | February 2021



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Front cover photo:
Newark Castle

Rear cover photos:
A selection of images from around the town centre



A few words from the Chairman

Welcome to issue 82 of the Newark Civic Trust magazine. I hope you are keeping well.

As you may or may not know, I am a building surveyor and in September I started a new job with Forestry England looking after their very diverse estate of buildings across central England. Building surveyors cannot help finding faults with buildings; that is exactly what we are trained to do. This does mean that I am easily distracted by the most mundane things – blocked or leaking gutters are a particular favourite of mine! I find it very easy to pick faults with buildings, but I am always keen to give praise where possible. On a recent stroll around the very quiet town centre, as part of my daily exercise, it was obvious that a few property owners were taking the opportunity to carry out repairs on their buildings, which is always good to see. I would like

to see more work happening but maybe the economic circumstances are preventing owners from investing as they should.

Some buildings have just been given a 'lick' of paint; others are being completely refurbished. We have a piece in this issue on the refurbishment of 11-13 Appletongate; some of you may know this as the former Probation Office. We are very lucky at the Trust as building owners and developers are more than happy to share information on their buildings. We can then use that information and 'top it up' to produce articles for this magazine. The developer at this site shared information with us and their architect provided the images. We then carried out some extra research on the property which ended in me exchanging emails with a Professor of Modern Architecture and Urbanism in Rhode Island! It

is amazing where research can take you. Every building, and the objects they contain, hold so many stories, some good and some bad, but it is amazing what you can find out when you do a bit of digging. By the way, the Professor has invited us all over to Rhode Island for a guided tour of Nightingale-Brown House (a very impressive property as you can see from the image on the left) when the pandemic is over. So, if anybody fancies it, just let me know!

It has been an 'interesting' few months since our last magazine and unlike any that we have experienced before. Back in September we held our first, and hopefully last, 'virtual' Annual General Meeting; thanks to all of you who joined us. This was then followed, in October, by a 'virtual' talk delivered by James Wright. James is an excellent speaker, both in person and online, and hopefully he will be delivering another talk for us very soon. We are always seeking quality speakers and I hope you enjoy what we are delivering during these difficult times. Hopefully, we will soon be meeting in person back at the library... it should not be too long now!!!

Thanks for your help and support,

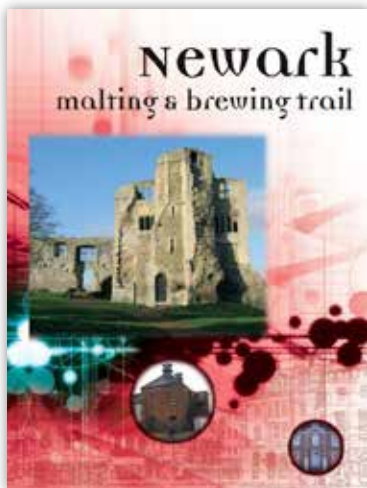
Michael Knapton - Chairman of Newark Civic Trust



Newark Town Trails

By Michael Knapton, Chairman

10 years ago, the Newark Civic Trust produced a series of eight town trails to guide locals and tourists around the town. Each trail was dedicated to a specific aspect of the town's history/built environment e.g. the Civil War, brewing, timber-framed buildings etc. To date we have distributed approximately 68,000 trails via the Town Hall, Tourist Information Hub, Visitor Information Centre and library.



As many of you will know, we have been planning to revise six out of the eight original trail leaflets; we will also be producing a new trail - Graffiti and Wall Paintings. We would like to revise six of the trails (excluding Curiosities and Art Deco as these have proven to be less popular than some of the other trails), as over the 10 years Newark has seen significant change. The most important changes include the closure of Millgate Museum and the Tourist Information Centre and the opening of the NCWC/ Visitor Information Centre. The revised trails have been rewritten as new information has come to light (or been found to be incorrect.) They will also be 'future proofed'



Maltings, Northgate

by updating the text to refer to buildings, as opposed to businesses, as we are aware of how quickly things can change in the town centre.

The production of a new trail - Graffiti and Wall Paintings, was inspired by an HLF project that recorded Medieval graffiti in St Mary's parish church and the subsequent talks delivered to the Civic Trust by Matt Beresford, who led that project. We also felt that the study of these forms of heritage have gained wider appreciation over the last few years. Newark has some fantastic examples of graffiti and wall-paintings, and we would like to help to communicate this fascinating subject to visitors and residents of Newark, as the examples we have are hidden away or under appreciated. The new trail will hopefully address this.

As previously stated, approximately 68,000 of these leaflets have been distributed since they were first introduced; they continue to be popular as we are having to regularly replenish stocks especially in the new Visitor Information

Centre. Newark has a fascinating and varied history, and these trails allow visitors to guide themselves around the town depending on their own specific interests.

To date we have been working with Nottinghamshire County Council on updating the text and images for the trails and they will also be printing the first batch of 1500 copies of each leaflet. So far, we have secured £600 of funding and we were hoping to secure 50% (or more) of the total costs from the Gilstrap Charity. Any additional funding would then come from the Trust's own savings. Unfortunately, we do not have enough savings to pay for the whole project.

I am very glad to announce that in November 2020 the Gilstrap Charity informed the Trust that they would be awarding us a grant of £2000 for the production and printing of the new trail leaflets. Once more, I would like to thank the Trustees of the Gilstrap Charity for this grant.

The Trust is now hoping to have the trails completed in time for the 2021 Heritage Open Days.

Funding for new heritage venue at Greyfriars in Lincoln

Press Release, Heritage Lincolnshire



"The Greyfriars" by Siân Wright © All Rights Reserved. 2013 - 2021

City of Lincoln Council, in partnership with Heritage Lincolnshire, has received initial support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the "Re-Imagining Greyfriars: 800 years of stories in the making".

Made possible by National Lottery players, the project aims to repair the Grade I listed building and bring it back into use as a heritage attraction and venue.

Development funding of £175,000 has been awarded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help City of Lincoln Council progress its plans to apply for a full National Lottery grant. This is supported by match funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund and Pilgrim Trust.

As well as progressing plans for conserving and repurposing the building, this project will include opportunities for people to engage with, and learn about, Greyfriars,

both on site and digitally.

Heritage Lincolnshire will work with both universities in Lincoln, schools, volunteers and other local groups to deliver a programme of research, recording, temporary exhibition, tours, talks and events over the next 12 months. These pilot activities will help the organisation plan what will be done during the next stage of the project and when the work is finished.

Anyone wanting to get involved in the project can contact Heritage Lincolnshire through its website (<https://website.heritagelincolnshire.org/>).

Greyfriars may be the oldest surviving Franciscan Church in Western Europe. Just 30 years after Franciscan rule was drawn up by St Francis of Assisi, Franciscans were given their first plot of land in Lincoln, which at its height included a range of buildings across the four-

acre site. Much of the building as it stands today dates from the late 1230's.

After monastic properties in Lincoln were surrendered to the crown in 1539, the Greyfriars site was converted to a private dwelling, being turned into a free school a generation later, at which point it was also bequeathed to the city. During this phase many of the other buildings on the site were dismantled and additions were made, including the installation of fireplaces to heat the site and glass for upgrading the windows for the school.

The upper floor was used as a free school and then the Lincoln Grammar School continuously until 1900, while the vaulted undercroft had a variety of largely unrelated uses, including storage, a house of correction, a wool factory, jersey school and Mechanics Institute. In the early 20th century, the building was restored for use as a museum. This occupied the building for almost a century before moving to a purpose-built site nearby in 2004. Since then, the building has been empty with occasional use for temporary arts exhibitions.

City of Lincoln Council have been working with Heritage Lincolnshire since 2017 to identify a new, viable, use for the building. The partnership will work together throughout this project and Heritage Lincolnshire will run the Greyfriars site once work is complete.

Commenting on the award, Cllr Neil Murray, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Historic

Environment Advocate at City of Lincoln Council said: "Greyfriars is a much-loved heritage spot in the city, and to be able to breathe new life into this building is great news. Over the years the building has had a number of uses, from a school, to most recently a museum. We are also looking to gain funding for this important project through the national Town Deal Fund, where we recently submitted our investment plan for £24.75 million. We look forward to sharing this important history and restoring the building to its former glory."

Greg Pickup, CEO of Heritage

Lincolnshire said: "We are very excited to be part of Greyfriars future. As the most active building preservation trust in the region we believe that saving this internationally important building, and giving it a new use, which utilises cutting edge technology to tell 800 years of stories, will engage a new generation in Lincolnshire's heritage."

Dr Kelcey Wilson-Lee, Head of Programmes and Impact at the Architectural Heritage Fund said: "Greyfriars is a site of exceptional importance in telling the story of Lincoln – through this project, that

story will be newly accessible to the local community, inspiring civic pride and preventing the blight of dereliction. The role that Heritage Lincolnshire, an established expert in conserving and adapting historic buildings for reuse, is playing in this partnership showcases the potential for specialist organisations to help towns and cities maximise the potential of their historic assets."

The development round of this project will cost £268,000 and, if successful in achieving funding, the delivery of the project is estimated to cost £1,720,000.



The Pilgrim Trust

Final stages of multi-million pound hotel development

Thanks to Melanie West, PR & Communications Manager, Lindum Group Ltd for this update



The 'Robin Hood Hotel' as of the 11th January 2021

Newark's brand-new hotel development is now in the final stages of construction, with its opening only several weeks away. The three floor, 66-bedroom Travelodge is due to open in March, at the site of the former Robin Hood Hotel, generating up to 70 new jobs and accompanied by three ground floor retail units to support further regeneration over coming years.

Exterior building work is complete and final stages of the development are well underway, including room decoration and cosmetic finishing touches to the interior. The Grade



Newly built end of the former hotel buildings

Its listed structure and façade were carefully retained during construction, with any repairs undertaken to the original structure.

Councillor David Lloyd, Leader of Newark and Sherwood District Council, said: "I am absolutely delighted with the progress that has been made despite nearly a year of national restrictions. These are really exciting times and the new hotel will further enhance Newark as a tourist destination, with huge potential to drive investment in the area. We promised that we would work to bring an end to this long-standing and complex blight on the town and I am thrilled that it is almost complete. This development is a major element of the Council's town centre interventions and developments, including the previously empty Royal Exchange/ Buttermarket and the former M&S building on Stodman Street. We want to create further confidence in the town, increase and improve its profile to act as a catalyst for further

investment in facilities, services and new developments for the local community".

Lindum contracts manager, Craig Houston said: "Most of the scaffolding is down now and the building is looking good. We still have some paving works to complete around the outside and so the hoarding will come down once that is completed. We are now

in the final stages of decoration and snagging and preparing the building for handover to our client in the coming weeks. Travelodge is due to take possession of the building in March. The chain will add finishing touches ahead of opening to the public. Likewise, the shop units will be completed once tenants are secured."

The District Council is now looking to secure three long-term tenants in the ground floor commercial units for occupation from mid-March onwards. The units total 900 square metres and are suitable for a variety of uses to further enhance the area. Newark and Sherwood District Council's long-term approach is to provide a range of new uses within the town, including additional food and beverage providers, retail outlets and events, visitor attractions, as well as extra overnight accommodation, enhanced educational prospects and an improved residential offer in the town centre.



A bird's eye view of the development

New report values huge contribution of church buildings to the UK at £12.4 billion

Press Release and images provided by the National Churches Trust



Church leaders have called for urgent government support to protect church buildings, after

a new report from the National Churches Trust highlighted the UK's increasing reliance on mainly volunteer led services, including food banks, mental health counselling and youth groups based in churches, chapels and meeting houses.

The House of Good report from the

National Churches Trust, the UK's leading church buildings support charity, has branded the nation's church buildings a 'National Help Service', after finding they provided £12.4 billion worth of essential social and economic support to local communities during the 12 months up until May 2020.

The report found that church buildings are a ready-made network of responsive hubs, providing increasing levels of care and wellbeing to local communities throughout the UK. The majority of churches found a way to provide

community support during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the report warns that many of their buildings are under threat, especially in towns and cities where they deliver the most value, as support for essential maintenance and repair from government and other funding bodies dries up.

Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust, Claire Walker said: *"During the COVID-19 pandemic, church buildings were placed in the same category as gyms and cinemas and forced to lock down. But for the most vulnerable in our society the support church buildings offer is not a recreational choice – it's an essential need – and lockdown served to highlight the increasing reliance of people on this support. These buildings have become our National Help Service."*

"But this is a National Help Service that we risk losing and may never be able to replace if these buildings do not get the financial support they need. Each year we receive thousands of requests for help from churches desperately in need of repairing the roof, or installing kitchen facilities and toilets, but we are only able to fund a quarter of these. For this reason we are urgently calling on local and national government and the National Lottery Heritage Fund to recognise the continuing need for their support."

Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, joint Presidents of the National Churches Trust said:



Foodbank, St Merrion Church, Belfast



Night shelter, St John the Baptist, Tamworth

"During lockdown churches around the country continued to use their buildings for the benefit of society, as people suffered the fallout of the pandemic. The value that church buildings provide in offering a space where all are welcomed and loved might be priceless, but looking after them has a very large cost. This report makes the argument for why it is appropriate for church-based community services to be funded by national government."

George Stack, Catholic Archbishop of England and Wales, said: *"Food Banks, Night Shelters, Lunch Clubs, Food Delivery, Community Centres, Advice and Counselling Sessions and so much else take place on church premises and in church halls, in historic buildings which are beloved by local communities. But the challenges of maintaining church buildings and their work is greater than ever, because of an increasing scarcity of resources."*

About the report

For the first time, a detailed economic study has measured the extent of the social and economic value the UK's 40,300 church buildings provide to the nation and local communities. It examined church buildings open to the public and being used for Christian worship. This includes churches, chapels, meeting houses and church halls, but excludes cathedrals.

In the UK, the total social value of church buildings calculated so far is at least £12.4 billion: roughly equal to the total NHS spending in England on mental health in 2018.

Cost benefit analysis shows that for every £1 invested in church

Will Watt, Director of State of Life, social impact and value specialists, which carried out the study said: *"Evidencing the full social value of the church building and its congregation and volunteers was a pioneering and rewarding challenge. The findings reveal that churches are without doubt 'key places' in our community. Churches provide*

a ready-made and extremely cost-effective source of help, support and care. This care radiates out from the buildings into our communities."

"The value we present in the report could easily be four or six times higher using other methods consistent with the Treasury Green Book."



Community in Church, St Mary's, Horncastle

buildings there is a Social Return on Investment (SROI) of £3.74, using the most conservative methods, with some wellbeing valuation methods estimating the SROI to be up to £18.10.

The House of Good study follows a methodology that is consistent with HM Treasury's *The Green Book*, the UK Government's key source of guidance on how to assess a policy's economic and social value. The evaluation is divided into two key sections on market and non-market value.

This report has, at almost every stage, used the most conservative estimates and has not included

all areas of social and community care. It also does not include other areas of potential value for church buildings, such as tourism, heritage and non-use value.

In the period 2004 - 2018, forty percent of closures of Church of England churches were in the most deprived ten per cent of parishes in England. A recent Church Buildings Council report found that churches in the most deprived parishes in the country are far more likely to struggle than those in less deprived areas and even more likely to close.

Go to <https://www.houseofgood.nationalchurchestrust.org/> for more information on this report.



The building during refurbishment

11-13 Appleton Gate

The former National Probation Service office (11 Appleton Gate) is currently undergoing refurbishment and conversion into five self-contained flats.

The building, originally one of two houses (13 Appleton Gate is now the dental surgery), was built in the mid-18th century with mid-19th and 20th century alterations. The exterior of the property contains interesting architectural details commonly found in buildings of this age and type – cogged and dentillated eaves, 12-pane sash windows and a moulded door with a rectangular overhead. The mid-19th century shopfront forms the frontage to the dentist surgery. Number 11 also features gabled dormers, not original, but probably installed in the mid-18th/mid-19th century as they are clearly visible in images of the buildings from 1909. Interestingly, the dental surgery also had three dormers which have since been removed.

The windows to the side elevations are similar to those at the front, however they only consist of two panes, with no window bars. To the rear of the property the ground floor benefits from two symmetrical traditional bay windows, constructed from hardwood and finished in a dark brown varnish/ paint.



Rear of the property during refurbishment



Rear courtyard and post-war warehouse, the dentist surgery is to the right



Panelling and fireplace (photo taken during the works, hence the very dusty panelling)

The rear courtyard is neighbored by the dentists and a storage warehouse, the warehouse is of pre-fab construction and does not compliment any of the local vernacular and architectural style. The rear elevations of the property have a stucco rendered finish. The courtyard benefits from the original cobbled stone surface that is consistent with the local architectural style.

Most interesting is the timber panelling, which is to be retained. The listing states *"Rear room to left has C16 linen-fold panelling, probably resited, with stone four-centred arch fireplace in wooden fluted pilaster surround, added in early C20 when this panelling was installed."* It is probable that the panelling came from the Chantry House, demolished prior to the construction of the Palace Theatre. The Chantry House would have replaced an earlier construction, which may originally have contained the panelling. Some of the panelling, described as 'bolection style', from the Chantry House was also purchased and installed in the Friary.

Some of the panelling found its way to America, to the house of John Nicholas Brown who bought the pieces in 1923 for his family's home, the Nightingale-Brown House, at 357 Benefit Street in Providence, Rhode Island, built in 1792. The house also contains early Georgian pine panelling and a mantel, bought through the firm Gill and Reigate Ltd.

of London in 1923. The firm claimed that the panelling and mantel came from the Chantry House, but the auction records make no mention of any pine panelling, which originally cast doubt on the truthfulness of Gill & Reigate's statement during the sale. However, Kevin Winter has found that there were at least two auctions, probably three, where the contents of the Chantry House were sold off – 1885, 1911 and probably 1919. Our local Resource Centre has copies of the first two catalogues, but not the third. There is nothing in the two earliest catalogues to indicate that any pine panelling was sold. However, there is also no mention of any oak panelling being sold.

The 1885 auction catalogue cover states that items for sale included, books, paintings, armour, garden statues, clocks, a piano, stained glass (possibly from the earlier Chantry House?) and various items of furniture; there was no mention of

any panelling.

The 1911 catalogue cover states that items for sale included, clocks, coffers, chests, plants, pianos, paintings, plate and eleven deer! There was no mention of architectural features, such as panelling or staircases, which were also usually sold-off in these house sales. You can also see from the 1912 image of the hall that the house at that time was still fairly well furnished after the second auction. It therefore makes sense that the actual architectural features, and presumably the building materials themselves, were sold as part of a third auction, some eventually making their way to America where they remain to this day.

Also, internally, all floors have aspects of historical interest and value, due to this value, the developers will be looking to retain as many of the existing historical features as possible, these include windowsill insets, hardwood wall panelling, fireplaces, bay windows and exposed structural timber beams.

The existing windows to the ground and first floors are generally in a reasonable condition and will be retained where possible. Due to the existing windows being single glazed, the developers have proposed to install secondary glazing internally, to provide a quality and robust finish, whilst maintaining the existing external architectural style.



The Hall, Chantry House, 1912

Newark Heritage Action Zone Programme

Our thanks go to Oliver Scott, Senior Conservation Officer at NSDC for providing this update

Background Information

In May 2019, Historic England launched the £95 million High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ), aimed at finding ways to revive and unlock the potential of historic high streets. Newark & Sherwood District Council (NSDC) submitted an expression of interest for this fund, and in September 2019 were notified that their bid was successful in principle. Officers submitted a more detailed project plan in December 2019, which was approved in February 2021. Due to the COVID pandemic work on the HAZ proposals and updates to Committees were necessarily delayed, with the HAZ Agreement being signed following Member support in October 2020.

The High Street HAZ fund is split between 68 high streets across England. There were 13 successful High Street HAZ area bids in total within the Midlands area, notably Leicester, Grantham and Lincoln.

Newark Conservation Area (CA) is on the national Heritage at

Risk Register, with vacancy and erosion of architectural and historic significance key factors. There are a number of buildings, including those with vacant upper floors, where there is limited prospect of change without some level of intervention. These include significant listed buildings such as the Grade II* listed former White Hart in the Market Place and the Grade II listed Corn Exchange. There are 15 listed buildings on the local Heritage at Risk Register in Newark labelled as very bad or poor, as well as a further 19 in danger of becoming poor or very bad due to vacancy.

Working closely with Historic England we identified that the most significant concentration of heritage at risk properties, combined with vacancy and other key high street problems, lay in the medieval core of the town centre, ranging from the Castle area to the Market Place via the important retail streets of Kirk Gate, Stodman Street and Middle Gate. Bridge Street, Carter Gate (as far as Beaumont Cross Junction/

Portland Street) and Appleton Gate were also identified (a map of the HAZ area boundary can be found at the end of this article.)

It is important to note that the HAZ forms one strand of work for Newark Town Centre. The need to re-purpose and revitalise the centre has been acknowledged as a strategic priority for the District Council through the Community Plan and the recently submitted Newark Town Investment Plan.

Newark High Street HAZ Programme Design 2020-2024

Newark has a very attractive town centre, which in recent years has faced the same challenges as other market towns, with chain stores closing and vacant shops deteriorating. Unlocking potential, and finding ways to revitalise its central core, is essential to regenerate and enhance the historic character of the Conservation Area. The potential to create new homes within the town centre, through converting vacant sites

and buildings and the repurposing and re-designing of public realm, to create more appealing and accessible public space and greater connectivity is at the heart of the HAZ Programme Design.

The initial bid sought a funding pot of £250,000, which is to be match-funded with NSDC and private-sector funding. However, since working up the details of the bid in detail, in consultation with Historic England, this figure has risen to £275,000. This is primarily in order to cover the cost of a full-time HAZ officer, which is an essential requirement of the fund.

The Projects – Part 1 of the HAZ

The key Newark HAZ projects are:

- Condition surveys and appraisals of key heritage at risk within the HAZ area, including the Corn Exchange, former White Hart Inn and other individual buildings at risk. Such surveys will inform urgent works and repairs discussions with owners. If works are not secured the Council and Historic England will also consider formal action as required.
- Shop front and upper floors 'development guide', based on quantified costs to demonstrate benefits;
- Shop front grants for appropriate historic replacements on a grant funded basis. It is expected that 3-4 shopfronts can be supported over the HAZ term;
- Public realm and way-finding feasibility and visioning: This project will focus on connecting and removing barriers/unwelcome desire lines between the different parts of the town centre, notably connecting the Potterdyke area (at Beaumont Cross and Martindale Lane). It will be necessary for any strategy to be produced in conjunction with a wider town centre review and in association with Nottinghamshire County

Council as highway authority. Wider wayfinding will be considered alongside improving legibility;

- Review of the local council tax and business rate regime – exploring and modelling alternative and incentivised approaches at a local level to a tax regime over a longer term;
- Tenant and Landlord Advice – working with both cohorts and legal advisors to identify best practice and balance when looking at lease approaches issues of dealing with repairs, and the need to support tenancies for longevity whilst securing ongoing income for landlords;
- Publication of a local book on Newark's Heritage. This publication will be a collaboration with Historic England and will draw on research and findings made throughout the HAZ project.

In tandem with the above, the Newark Conservation Area Appraisal is to be completed. Whilst there has been some delay and unforeseen challenges (for example, during the COVID pandemic, it is not possible to carry out a public meeting for this project, a legal requirement under section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990), it remains the intent to produce a draft of the Appraisal for adoption in 2021.

In addition, Historic England are keen to ensure that a review of Local Listings forms part of this process. Development of a robust criteria to underpin the survey of Local Listings is critical.

The Cultural Program – Part 2 of the HAZ

The Cultural Program is linked, but otherwise run and funded separately to the HAZ projects detailed above. A core of organisations has been identified from the wider community to lead on our cultural programme,

including Inspire (Culture, Libraries and Learning), Newark Civic Trust, Newark Heritage Forum, Newark Book Festival, Newark and Sherwood CVS and Newark and Sherwood College (Schools of Violin, Piano and Woodwind). Collectively, these are 'the Cultural Consortium'. Their brief is to explore a range of mediums to deliver a programme that is accessible and welcoming to everyone. This can include a wide range of cultural activities encompassing theatre, street art, poetry, literature, music festivals and photography projects, amongst other activities.

The objectives of the Cultural Programme are:

- a) to revitalise high streets through cultural activities, bringing both a wider range of people and new activity to the heart of communities and raising aspirations;
- b) to encourage greater use of high streets and increase dwell time;
- c) to create greater pride, sense of community and wellbeing through cultural engagement;
- d) to help local organisations, communities and stakeholders to embed and sustain the benefits of the Programme in the future; and
- e) to support the work of the overall capital programme.

Inspire, the lead partner in the Cultural Consortium, have successfully applied for a pilot grant for the Cultural Programme of £10,000. Supported by the Heritage and Culture business unit, Inspire will use this funding to formalise the consortium and engage with members to build capacity and skills, undertake community engagement to underpin the development of the cultural programme, and develop a delivery plan.

AGM 2020

The Newark Civic Trust Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 24th September 2020 via Zoom, due to Covid 19 restrictions. There were 13 members present online. The Chairman welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending and for their support over the past year. This was an historic AGM, our first, and hopefully last, virtual AGM. The Secretary had e-mailed an agenda, copy of last year's minutes and copies of the accounts to all members on e-mail, but if anyone hadn't received them, they were shown on screen. Apologies were read out from those unable to attend and the minutes of last year's AGM were agreed with no amendments.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave his report on the past year. It had been a strange year, but Michael thought back to how things were and reported that we had been able to have 4 of our regular talks at the Library, with a good mix of subjects, such as Georgian Nottingham, Lost churches of Nottingham, Old Time

Punishments and Sydney Race's Nottingham Nights. Thanks to Paul Moore for organising the talks and some of the talks and visits that had to be cancelled due to Covid 19. We will monitor the situation, but would like to arrange some sort of visit as soon as it is safe to do so. For now, we may have to look at delivering some of the talks, and possibly events, virtually. This might not be ideal for everyone, but at least we can deliver something for members. Paul has been speaking to James Wright, who spoke to us before about Medieval Graffiti, and is happy to deliver a talk on Medieval Building Myths online on the 29th October. Details will be sent out via e-mail or posted on our website. Michael had been looking at virtual tours recently, which would be guided video tours of local places, which could be viewed live or recorded so they could be viewed at members' convenience. Virtual tours might help members access places that cannot currently be accessed in person. This week Michael had visited the Pyramids at Giza, the Terracotta Warriors and

Ann Frank's house online. He was talking to Nottinghamshire County Council about what events might be happening in the county. They have said they could open the church tower at Bramcote for small groups of 6 and at the same time run a tour of Bramcote Hall, so one half of a group of up to 12 could tour the tower, whilst the other conducts a tour of the Hall before swapping over. They did this over Heritage Open Days weekend when it worked well and within Covid 19 secure guidelines. They can take more than one booking for consecutive hour slots, so Michael will discuss this with the committee, and we might be able to do this before Christmas, weather and light permitting. We will keep members informed of any developments.

Michael hoped everyone had received the latest copy of our magazine and thanked all those who helped put it together, and then deliver it to members around town. Now more than ever it is important to keep members informed of what is happening and provide a good quality magazine



The former White Hart Hotel when occupied by The Nottingham Building Society

as a benefit of membership. He encouraged anyone to get in contact with ideas or articles that could be included in the magazine. These might include articles seen in other publications that might be interesting to members. We are not looking for an essay, just a few paragraphs and photos of something you think might be of interest.

What should be of interest to all is the town centre of Newark, with suggestions over recent years that this was in decline. This should not come as a surprise to anybody, nor is it a situation unique to Newark. The state of the commercial centre has naturally been hit over the last few months, with national retailers, such as Fat Face, Zizzi's and Superdrug shutting up shop as part of streamlining or restructuring. Whilst he did not intend to look

at the impact on the national and local economies, one concern, which most members would share, was the impact on some of our most treasured buildings and the wider heritage impact on the town. The loss of Zizzi's from the Ossington meant that a significant property, familiar to all when entering or leaving the town would now be empty. Having the ground floor abandoned is not a good message for the town to be giving. There are ongoing issues with the Corn Exchange, and members will be familiar with the problems Newark & Sherwood District Council had in the past with getting in contact with the owners. This had now been resolved, but members would be aware that the owner had failed to get the licensing hours he wanted, with alcohol being allowed to be sold until 0245 rather than 0430. The owner says this now puts

the viability of the venue at risk. Michael was not sure about this, or that the owners were trying to do their best for the town, as reported recently. Whatever the case the building remains out of use, so is it being maintained? The Conservation team have been on the roof this week with the owners, so discussions appear to be ongoing, however what we really want to see is the building back in use and benefiting the whole town, not just the late-night revellers. On a more positive note, the former Nottinghamshire Building Society had recently been purchased, however nobody is yet sure by whom (this is still the case at the time of going to press.) Hopefully, this will signal the building being returned to use. Work at the former Robin Hood Hotel, or what remains of it, are now well advanced and don't appear too far from completion,

with Travelodge due to open in February 2021. All these buildings and many others face uncertain futures given the economic uncertainty for the country as a whole; that is an unfortunate fact of life. Michael thought that, in all honesty, he would be talking about all these buildings again next year, but hopefully in a positive light.

On positives there has been an announcement that Newark will receive part of £17.5 million as part of the High Streets Heritage Action Zone programme, delivered by Historic England 'which is set to unlock the potential of high streets, fuelling economic and cultural recovery'. Newark's share is £275,000, with both Grantham and Lincoln receiving much bigger sums. Initially it might be thought that £275,000 is a drop in the ocean, but it will help to provide a focus on how it can best be used to benefit the town. Michael will be talking to NSDC about what their plans are, but is expecting an announcement in the Advertiser next week, when members should be able to read about them. On the other hand, the Town's Fund of up to £25 million can be used for a much wider range of purposes, such as education, transport, and infrastructure or pretty much anything that might be submitted. Michael hoped that we would be awarded this by the Government and that it would be spent in the right way. The Castle Gatehouse Project is one that Michael would love to see come to fruition, to 'maximise the potential of this heritage asset'. The Towns Fund was originally heralded as a way of driving economic growth and productivity, investment and connectivity, but also investment in cultural assets and skills. He hoped Newark would receive the biggest grant possible and it is used in the right way. He had heard that an announcement might be made early next week.

On the subject of grant funding, next month the Gilstrap Charity would decide on our application to fund the updating of the Town Trail leaflets, something we had been working on for a couple of years. All the trails that we were going to update have been updated and the Graffiti and Wall Painting's trail has been written, but still needs a few photographs to be obtained. The Gilstrap Charity meeting to decide on our application had been put on hold due to Covid 19. We first applied late last year, but this had to be resubmitted in spring this year. Michael had been contacted by them to run through the application and we should know next month whether we have been successful. You can watch the meeting live on YouTube, if you want to know how we get on.

Finally, the Chairman wanted to remember two of our members who had recently passed away. Tony Colton had passed away in May at the age of 81. Tony was a former captain of Newark Rugby Club in the 1960s, Chair of Newark & Sherwood Community Voluntary Service, as well as Newark Sports Association. Paul Baggaley from Newark Sports Association had joined us this evening. Whenever Michael met Tony he was always generous in his praise for the Trust, the work we do and especially the magazine and was always very encouraging. Paul Baggaley had said in a tribute in the Newark Advertiser that 'without many realising, the people of Newark had benefited greatly from his resilience, knowledge and understanding. He set a high bar for public service that many will aspire to, but few will reach. He was a Newarker through and through and we need more like him.' Michael also wanted to say a few words about John Oldham, who was a Life Member and former Treasurer of the Trust. Michael had never met John, but Richard Bingham, who is another Life

Member, had called him to let him know that John had passed away at the beginning of August, at the age of 95. John had helped to run a local venue called the Blue Rooms, which was lost when St Marks Precinct had been redeveloped. His family was also known for owning Oldham's Bakery and he was a past President of Newark Amateur Operatic Society and a Director of Beaumont House. Michael had put out an appeal on Facebook for any memories of John and received dozens of responses, all of which described John as a warm, kind and generous individual, who was a pleasure to know. Both John and Tony will be sadly missed, but will be remembered for all they have done for the town.

Kevin Winter added that the £275,000 received for the High Street Heritage Action Zone was being matched by NSDC. So, the total amount for work to take place was around £550,000. This was primarily aimed at bringing historic properties back into use, both commercially and domestically, with accommodation above the shops brought into use.

Treasurer's Report

Louise Knapton-Carter read the Treasurer's report, copies of which had been e-mailed to members and were shown on screen.

Income

Income had increased as we had received a donation of £500 from NSDC for the Town Trails and also £100 from Guy Taylor Associates for the same purpose, plus a further £33 donation. Income from subscriptions was slightly lower, as membership numbers had fallen slightly. There were now 54 single and joint members, 25 life members, 7 corporate members and 2 children. There are now 122 members, with 8 new members this year. Gift Aid of £62.67 had been claimed back. Total income for the year was £2122.90

Expenditure

There were no website expenses, despite the Chairman having chased them on several occasions. They are still maintaining the website but have not billed us for some time. Michael has investigated whether it could be transferred to a new provider, but it would not be possible and would have to be rebuilt. Therefore, we will continue chasing them to try and pay them. Total expenditure for the year was £1,606.28. Overall income over expenditure was £516.62. The Trust currently has assets of £3,656.36.

The accounts had not been sent for auditing this year due to Covid 19, but hopefully next year we will return to normal. The Nottinghamshire Building Society account had been closed, as we were receiving very low interest and it was difficult to maintain and even to close down.

Election of Officers

The following officers were re-elected with unanimous approval:

Chairman

Michael Knapton

Vice-Chairman

Kevin Winter

Secretary

Kevin Winter

Treasurer

Louise Knapton Carter

Election of Executive Committee Members

In addition to the officers elected above, the following were unanimously elected to the Executive Committee:

Planning Chairman

Michael Hawes

Planning Vice-Chairman

Paul Moore

Membership Secretary

Debbie Smith

Recruitment Secretary

Debbie Smith

Conservation Watch Co-ordinator

Mick Gill

Awards Co-ordinator

Michael Knapton

Events Co-ordinator

Paul Moore

The Chairman invited anyone who might like to be involved to volunteer for the Executive Committee. Members were welcome at committee meetings even if they were not members of the committee.

Any Other Business

Paul Baggaley had sent the Chairman a link to a National Lottery Heritage Fund scheme that he thought the Trust would be ideal candidates for. He thought there were a lot of buildings in the town that required work and might be likely candidates. Whilst Paul could not join our committee, as he is involved with so many others, he would be willing to work with someone to formulate a bid. Michael thanked Paul and mentioned that we had received HLF grants in the past for the Town Pump, for example. One of the issues with applying for money for buildings was that you could only apply if you owned the building or were working in partnership with the owner. This was the case for the Town Pump, as it is owned by Newark Town Council, so we had to work with them. Michael will be talking to Oliver Scott next week, once more is known about the various grants coming into the town and would then look to see whether there was potential for bidding for any extra funding for projects that might fall outside the grants awarded.

Kevin Winter reported that for this year's Heritage Open Days most events were online, with Newark College giving a guided tour of

their gardens and both the Palace Theatre and the castle also giving guided tours. It had been possible to conduct three live events, with the Ranger conducting a tour of Sconce & Devon Park, Kevin conducting two Civil War tours and the Tudor garden at the rear of the National Civil War Centre – Newark Museum being open. Visitors could see the planters, with plants and herbs that might have been taken by the Mayflower, with guides available to explain their purpose. Over 100 people had taken advantage of this. It was hoped that next year we could return to a full range of events. Because numbers were restricted for the Civil War tours Kevin suggested that maybe this was something that members might be interested in.

Michael mentioned subscriptions, as normally a lot of people pay in person at the AGM, by cheque or cash. Subscriptions are our lifeblood, and our corporate sponsors subscriptions were vital to us and allowed us to produce the magazine twice a year. Individual subscriptions pay for the day to day running of the Trust, such as paying for room hire, speakers' fees and events. Subscriptions are currently £15 for an individual or £20 for two family members. A lot of people pay by Standing Order, with a few still paying at the old rate. We would be contacting these shortly, but if you do pay by Standing Order please check it is set to right amount. Michael said that if you wanted to pay by cash to let us know and we could arrange for someone to pick it up, or you can send a cheque to the Treasurer, whose address is at the front of the magazine, or they can be paid by BACS transfer.

This concluded the AGM, so Michael thanked everyone for attending and looked forward to seeing everyone in person in the not-too-distant future.

The Newark Herald 1899

By Debby Smith, Membership Secretary

I am fortunate enough to have a very fragile copy of The Newark Herald, dated Saturday 5 August 1899.

During this second lockdown I thought it might be fun to have a look at what was going on in Newark more than 120 years ago. Here is a selection of news items, announcements and, most interesting of all, advertisements. Just a general comment before I begin: much like the Advertiser today, the paper covered items from surrounding villages and towns such as Southwell, Ollerton and Worksop. Unlike nowadays, it also carried descriptions of interesting or unusual events from other parts of the country. One of these recounts the misfortunes of Bertie Precious, from Norfolk, who was fined £5 for shooting at cyclists with a rifle, injuring one of them quite badly; 'the bullet has not yet been extracted from the injured limb', let us hope that at some stage it was. The paper is a broadsheet and the front page, like most newspapers in those days, consists of advertisements and announcements. Here is a selection.

WE Knight offers good, cheap and durable coals for cash from his offices on Trent Bridge.

W Doubleday *'is making a special show of the latest styles and up-to-date millinery'* at her establishment in the Market Place. Meanwhile Friend and Co (Newark and Bridlington), Piano, Organ and Music Warehouse, 18 Market Place, offer second-hand and new instruments, with free professional tuning.

There is an IMPORTANT NOTICE about artificial teeth: Mr John Hardy will see customers at 1.30pm every Monday in Mr Smith's chemist, Bridge St.

Mr Peet, of 79 Barnbygate, maker of straw, wool, hair and string mattresses, also offers upholstery services.

A Jackson, painter and decorator, will be pleased to give estimates from his premises at 11 Kirkgate; and H Cook in Chain Lane supplies Spectacles and Folders in gold, nickel and steel.

Many older inhabitants will remember Bainbridges. In 1899 they were selling Kidder (possibly a short term for Kidderminster carpets), Tapestry, Brussels and Axminster carpets, together with mats, hearth rugs, linoleums, ... lace and other curtains, *'suitable for every class of house'*.

G Staniland, Pork Butcher, 8 Bridge St, *'has now commenced the tripe dressing business'*, and *'hopes by strict attention to all orders entrusted to him to receive ... patronage'*. Mr Staniland supplies schools (no turkey twizzlers in those days, although I daresay the children would have preferred them) and has a stall on Newark Market on Saturday nights. Did people actually like tripe?

Now for some of the notices. Messrs Larken, Toynbee and Huskinson, Lawyers, were offering for auction on 31 August, at 6pm 'precisely', at the Square and Compass Inn, Normanton on Trent, the Normanton Hall Estate, consisting of five lots including grassland, a blacksmith and cottages.

Messrs Cooks advertise trips to Cleethorpes and, for some strange reason, Grimsby Docks.

Newark Hospital Private Nursing Institution can supply *'thoroughly reliable medical and surgical nurses ... by the hour at a reasonable charge'*.

DRURY'S CELEBRATED INFANTS PRESERVATIVE (*'for all disorders of children, such as wind, griping pain, ... irritability of temper ... during teething ... makes them grow stronger, more vigorous and cheerful. Simply invaluable to mothers'*) is available from W Benett, chemist, Newark.

EXTENSIVE ALTERATIONS TO PREMISES, MATTHEWS AND SONS - GREAT CLEAR OUT SALE IS NOW PROCEEDING. A SAVING OF 5/- in the £ ... will pay your Summer Trippings (trippings sound like more fun than a day at Skeggy: perhaps we should return to this terminology.)

A Grand Fete and Gala will be held at Sconce Hills on Bank Holiday Monday, 7 August (August Bank Holiday used to be the first Monday of the month, not the last as it is now), with SPLENDID ATTRACTIONS AND CONTINUOUS AMUSEMENT, including performances by Tony St Clair ('the Highest Table Performer in the World'); Colonel de Rizio, 'assisted by Mademoiselle Lillie' - great rifle expert; the Newark Borough Band; dancing and fireworks. Admission 6d, children under 12, 3d.

The classified ads were brief and to the point. WANTED: Boot Trade - good repairer, constant work, good wages. TA Baines, 27 Middlegate.

Youth Wanted as ostler, to live in, Queen's Head, Market Place.

Experienced joiner or cabinet maker, permanent job for suitable man, apply F Golland, 20 Middlegate.

MARRIAGES: John Edwin Smith to Annie Edith Brown, 3 August at the Baptist Church (presumably the one on Albert St); Arthur Munson to Jane Brownson, 29 July at the Parish Church.

DEATHS: Eight deaths recorded. Ages range from John Halliday, 9 months and Evelina Boddy, 11 months, to Frederick Parker, gentleman, aged 75.

TREAT TO PEA PULLERS. Mr Fletcher, of the Woolpack Inn [now the Prince Rupert] gave tea to the women who have been pulling peas for him during the season. *'They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gave three cheers to Mr Fletcher for his kindness'*.

There is a lengthy description of the London Rd Congregational Church Sunday School Anniversary. Mr Quibell, the glue manufacturer, was due to preside but arrived late, having forgotten all about the event. Entertainment was given by the children; apparently 'the recitation by FW Thurman was given with distinctness and met with prolonged applause'. Perhaps the audience was relieved that it was over.

There was a report on The Newark Board of Guardians' fortnightly meeting at the Ossington. An 82-year-old man who had been in receipt of poor relief had found work so no longer needed relief. The Misses Hutchinson had invited the workhouse inmates to tea, an offer which was gratefully accepted. After a great deal of messing about deciding how to fund it, the committee agreed to pay for an outing for the patients in the infirmary.

The report of the Newark Petty Sessions, held the previous Wednesday, is full of interest. The

citizens of Norwell seemed to enjoy a drink; George Brown was charged with *'drunkenness and hilarity'*. He pleaded not guilty, but Sergeant Deacon was on the case, *'It was you singing'*. Defendant: *'It was not me. I [gave up] singing in public houses a long while since'*. He was fined 5/- . Quite right too. Frederick Cartwright was *'helplessly drunk at Norwell'*. Sergeant Deacon, that conscientious upholder of the law, picked him up and sent him home. Despite his pleas for leniency he was fined 10/- . William Nightingale of Balderton was fined 10/- for not having a license for his *'small terrier dog'*. Fined 10/- plus the cost of the license (Dog Licenses were abolished in the UK in 1987. Even then they only cost 37p, or 7/6d in old money. Micro-chipping costs more!)

In those days football confined itself to the winter, and cricket, lovely cricket, loomed large in the lives of the young and not-so-young men of Newark during the summer. There was *'a splendid victory'* for Newark against Grimsby, with Newark scoring 159 against Grimsby's paltry 66. Mr Quibell (I wonder if this was the same one who didn't show up at the Sunday School Anniversary?) scored 1. He also failed to shine either as a bowler or fielder. Newark's bowler Dunn took 5 wickets and his colleague Peck, 4. Peck and Dunn were clearly demon bowlers as in the match between a Newark 11 and Mr Bailey's team, played on the previous Tuesday, Peck took 6 for 40 and Dunn 4 for 14. Despite these match-winning performances the Newark men hammered Mr Bailey's lot, scoring 170 to their 105. Notable among Newark's run scorers were RH Howitt (34) and the Captain, GH Attenborough (43 not out). Mr Quibell was maybe too occupied with his glue-making activities to be available for selection on that occasion.

Just one footie mention as I know

people like it. The headline reads: ASTON VILLA FC - PLAYERS SUMMONED FOR PRACTICE.

'Though the hot weather we are experiencing makes thoughts of football distasteful, leather chasers will soon be getting into harness for the winter campaign'. So, pre-season training existed even then.

Finally, on our trawl through the Newark of 1899, let us remember that in those days there were no antibiotics and no NHS. If you suffered from gravel, lumbago, piles, pain in the back, ... (the list is very long), Boots would be pleased to sell you a box of Holdroyd's Gravel Pills (cost 1/1d, about 5p). Boots also advertised 'Tic! Tic! Tic!' for neuralgia and toothache and 'Waukeezie', 'a corn-curing wonder', at the bargain price of 10d. Smiths Liquorice Compound ('for coughs and colds') could be purchased from Smiths, the Bridge St Pharmacy, for 1/8d and Mr Wallace, Surgeon Dentist, was in attendance at Stenetts Stationers, Market Place, every Wednesday from midday to 5pm. 'All consultations free'.

I suppose it is easy to laugh at all this (which is exactly what I am doing). We must remember that our ancestors weren't aware that we would find Gravel Pills and Trippings funny. Their lives in Newark were as serious and real to them as ours are to us. Huge humanitarian and social strides had been made during the reign of Queen Victoria: Newark had two railway stations, paved and clean roads, gas lighting, sewers, a waste disposal system, a hospital which used aseptic techniques and anaesthetics, a basic welfare state in the shape of the Workhouse, photography, moving films - and newspapers. Telephones, cars, planes and electricity were on the horizon. We have got a lot to thank them for.

Next time - the Advertiser from 26 August 1972.

A to Z of Architecture

by Michael Knapton, Chairman

We continue our look at a variety of common architectural terms and where they can be found in and around Newark. This issue – 'G'.

Gable

A gable is an area of a wall above eaves level, usually at the end of a section of roof.

There are many different styles of gable, ranging from a basic form reflecting the slope of the roof (pitched gable) to more intricate designs such as Kneeler Gables, Dutch Gables, Crowstep Gables or Crocketted Gables (mostly found on ecclesiastical buildings).

The word itself probably derives from the Old English *gafol* or *geafel* meaning 'a fork' – the roof literally forks off from the ridge. In Ancient Greek architecture the pediment is similar in form to the gable, except that a pediment is supported by columns to form a portico; a gable is supported by a wall.



'Dutch' style gable, the Butter Market



Crowstep Gable at the former Toll House, Beastmarket Hill

Garret

An inhabited space at the top of a building located in a roof-space, usually with dormer windows to provide light. Usually located in larger residential buildings and became fashionable in Paris in the latter half of the 19th century.

The word itself is derived from the Germanic *garir* meaning 'defend', and later the French *garite* meaning 'watchtower'; garrison comes from the same derivation.

Garrets were the poorest space in a building, sometimes used for storage, industry, as well as habitation and would have been cold, dark and damp places, as Charles Dickens described at the start of *A Tale of Two Cities*:

"The garret, built to be a depository for firewood and the like, was dim and dark: for, the window of dormer shape, was in truth a door in the roof, with a little crane over it for the hoisting up of stores from the street: unglazed, and closing up the middle in two pieces, like any other door of French construction. To exclude the cold, one half of this door was fast closed, and the other was opened but a very little way. Such a scanty portion of light was admitted through these means, that it was difficult, on first coming in, to see anything; and long habit alone could have slowly formed in any one, the ability to do any work requiring nicety in such obscurity."



Garret, part of the Ram Hotel, Boar Lane



Garret above 7 Stodman Street

Gibbs Surround

A moulded frame of a door or window interrupted by large rectangular blocks. The keystone is usually divided into three, with a larger central keystone flanked by two smaller keystones, usually, but not always, below an interrupted pediment. Predominantly found in buildings from the 18th century, such as the Clinton Arms and 42 Kirkgate.

This architectural form is named after the Scottish architect, James Gibbs (1682-1754). Gibbs trained in Rome and was heavily influenced by Andrea Palladio and Sir Christopher Wren. The Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Radcliffe Camera, Oxford were both designed by Gibbs, and are heavily reliant on the surround that bears his name. Locally, he helped with the work to strengthen the western towers of Lincoln Cathedral. In 1724 he advised that the spires atop the two towers at the west end should be removed; they remained in place until 1804.

Although the surround is named after Gibbs, mainly in the UK, the form was found in Italy as early as the 15th century.



Partial Gibbs Surround at 42 Kirkgate.
Note that the lower sections of the surround have been removed



Gibbs Surround to first floor window of the Clinton Arms



Woodcut of rusticated doorway by Sebastiano Serlio, 1537

Dates for the Diary

As with the AGM we are restricted in how we can deliver our usual programme of talks. We will continue to monitor the situation and update you as soon as we possibly can. Full details of the programme can be found on the website (www.newarkcivictrust.ork.uk) but we will also contact members via email.

The following talks will be delivered online.

- 25th February 2021 – James Wright 'Castles of Nottinghamshire'
- 25th March 2021 – Kevin Winter 'Newark in the Civil War'

Poets Corner

Thanks to Kate Koppana (former member of the now defunct Newark Poetry Society) for her poems

Imaginings of St Mary during lockdown, in two parts

Rhymeless Sonnet

Our glorious church, siege-scarred and rained upon,
Is empty now of our community,
Those friends long known are starting to grow old,
May not be there when people meet again,
But is the church deserted and alone?
The light before the Blessed Sacrament
Reminds the building that this is not so,
God, being omnipotent is around.
Here he's in his more concentrated form.
There are no flowers to beautify the place,
Nor coffee bar crumbs for the little mice
Who dance their minuets between the pews.
As days and weeks and months go slowly by
The rain comes in and the dust begins to lie.

A brief moment

The sun suddenly
Illuminates the South Transept
A mouse, chewing on
A piece of orange peel from
Last year's Kristingle,
Looks up as if gazing
At the face of God;
It's whiskers tremble

During the early days of lockdown

Is there anyone there? A question put
To the Market Place yesterday.
No, no one is there. The stalls
Are unpeopled, unburdened
With their usual fruit and veg,
Dried pigs ears for dogs, garden twine.
I'm there, not that one person counts
As overcrowding. The church clock
Strikes twelve, halfway to midnight
When a large population of semi-here,
Semi-there, waft over the cobblestones.

Newark Civic Trust

MAGAZINE

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