



Newsletter April 2014



produced by

Peter Lee 01780 782703
Toby Wood 01733 732784

peter.g.lee@btinternet.com
tobywood2008@googlemail.com

SUMMER VISITS PROGRAMME 2014

Pauline Sidebottom has done a sterling job in organising the following programme for us. A booking form is enclosed. Please complete it and send it with your cheque to Pauline. Although these visits are all 'get yourself there' trips, Pauline will try to co-ordinate car-sharing for anyone who does not have a car. She will also send **location maps** to assist all those who book.

Tuesday 13th May at 2.30p.m. Walking Tour of Kings Lynn with one of their excellent Blue Badge Guides. The Hanseatic town of Lynn was one of England's most important ports from the 12th Century onwards. The fine old merchants' houses stretch down to the river between cobbled lanes and the town has two magnificent market places. We can expect to hear of the town's maritime trade, its fishing communities, its famous navigators and its Medieval pilgrims en route to the shrine at Walsingham. We meet at King's Lynn Minster (opposite the Gaol House Museum) at 2.15 p.m. ready for a 2.30 p.m. start. The walk will last no more than 2 hours.



Cost: £5 per person

Tuesday 24th June at 6p.m. Visit to Spalding Gentleman's Society (9 Broad Street Spalding PE11 1TB). The Society is one of the oldest learned societies in the country and the earliest provincial association for the encouragement of antiquarianism. Its roll-call of members is amazing and begins with Sir Isaac Newton and Sir Hans Sloane. The Museum is, with the exception of the Ashmolean, the oldest in the country, even though it is housed in a 1911 building. The building has stairs to the first floor and no disabled facilities, but some arrangements can be made depending on the nature of any disability. There is parking close by which costs 80p until 8.00pm when charging ends.



Cost: £6 per person

Monday 7th July at 2.15p.m. Wothorpe Towers. The Italianate ruins of the Towers feature in Peterborough and its Villages in Detail and form one of Peterborough's least known historic buildings. Aside from their fascinating history, the owner, Paul Griffin, has embarked on a massive scheme to renovate the associated buildings and grounds. He will give us a guided tour and talk supported by documentary materials. The visit will last about one and a half hours and will conclude with refreshments. We are warned that access for the disabled is difficult, so please notify Pauline in advance if you have walking difficulties. Sensible footwear is a must.



Cost: £8 per person

CHAIRMAN'S EVENING

This year's Chairman's Evening will be held in the John Clare Theatre on Wednesday 28th May at 7.30 pm. The speaker is Mr **Richard Astle** and his title is 'I am Swaddywell – the story of a troubled place'. The talk covers the history of John Clare's Swaddywell, near Helpston, its issues of geology, landscape, enclosure and the birth of the nature reserve movement as well as wildlife and poetry.

Richard makes a major contribution to the life of the Peterborough area through his many roles. He is MD of Athene Communications, chair of the Greater Peterborough Partnership, runs the Helpston charity The Langdyke Countryside Trust and chairs the charity The Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (SHINE). Proceeds from the evening will be donated Richard's major fund-raising drive, his Chairman's Challenge in aid of a Health and Well-being Centre for SHINE.

Tickets are available from Pauline Sidebottom - please use the booking form enclosed.

Cost: £5.00 (to include a glass of wine or soft drink) plus any addition you may care to make to SHINE.

www.peterboroughcivicsociety.org.uk



Newsletter April 2014



THE CIVIC SOCIETY AND APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Each fortnight your Plans Group meets to review the latest applications for planning permission and listed building consent. The following is a selection of the cases it has commented upon together with the subsequent decision made by the City Council since your last newsletter. Others await decision and will be reported later.

The reference numbers have been given so that should you wish to examine the plans, you can access them via this page on Peterborough City Council's website:

http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/planning_and_building.aspx and by clicking on Planning & Building Online Register.

13/1364/FUL Vawser Lodge site, Thorpe Road. Application for 13 houses. Good scheme but we opposed its gated nature for traffic reasons. Approved 13 December with gates to be kept open at peak periods.

13/1769/HHFUL Roof modifications at 27 Cherry Orton Road Orton Waterville. Objected to roof form proposed. Permitted due to inconspicuousness 15th January.

13/01857/FUL and 13/01758/FUL. Shop extensions and installations of mezzanine floors in units 11 and 20 Serpentine Green. Society concerned at potential for diversion of further spending away from City Centre. Following reduction of proposed floorspace both applications permitted 20 March.

13/01900/FUL 81 Park Rd. Change of use to Orthodontic practise and demolition of front walls to create parking . Society objected to loss of front walls. Their demolition was deleted from the application and the change of use permitted 13th February.

14/00167/FUL Three new screens to the Cathedral's West Front Porch . The Society expressed disappointment that 3 of the 4 screens (one is internal so did not need planning permission) proposed a pseudo-Gothic arch within the clear glazed screens instead of a minimalist all-glass solution. Permitted.

A number of other applications on which we have commented are still under consideration by the City Council and will be reported later.

In addition we are keeping an eye on the following

Waitrose. Whilst we have welcomed a larger Waitrose in the City Centre on the former Bourges Boulevard Royal Mail Sorting Office site, we submitted concerns about the elevational treatment and about the interface between the large car-park and the re-designed Bourges Boulevard. There is a lack of landscaping here to demarcate the boundary and soften the visual impact of car parking. These points were put to the City Council but to no avail during the application process and permission has now been granted. A further concern, that of adequate pedestrian access from the City Centre generally and from nearby residential areas has been taken up directly in correspondence with Waitrose. We await their response.

The PDH Hospital site. We, along with about 400 members of the public, attended a well-publicised exhibition by the new owners, Lands Improvement Holdings Ltd. They had little to offer in terms of detail at this stage, but the assurances about retention of the Memorial Hospital core building (whose bronze plaques are in safe keeping), No's 60-62 Thorpe Road and of course the listed Gables were welcome. They envisage about 350 homes (at the low end of the City Council's range) and changes to the road layout not yet specified.. The development team also attended our February committee meeting, We have passed our comments to them at this early stage:

- Concern that sufficient curtilage is retained to The Gables
- Concern how the future retention of No's 60-62 can be secured.
- Our interest in their undertaking a feasibility study to see if the multi-storey main hospital building could be retained for a new use in view of the amount of embodied energy in it.
- Concern to see the development contribute to a new footway/ cycle bridge over the main railway line.
- The desirability of the scheme making a contribution to affordable housing in the city as well as owner-occupied housing.



Newsletter April 2014



St Peter's Arcade

Last year the Council proposed the creation of doors at each end of St Peter's Arcade. Following a formal complaint from the Society on the legal aspects of this, the proposal was withdrawn. However, a refurbishment scheme has gone ahead and is now complete with new lighting, flooring, more retail frontage inside and a superbly reclad front to the disabled loo. Excellent. But what has come along in its wake but a bizarre planning application to place screens at each end of the arcade narrowing the access. Not only will this constrict the entrances, increasing the opportunities for cyclist/pedestrian friction at these points, but an excellent environment for rough sleepers will be created, so increasing the argument for closing it off at night. The Society has objected.

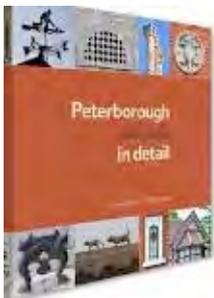
North Westgate

Following the developer's press release in December, his planning consultant, David Shaw, attended our January committee meeting to share the latest thought on the form that development might take. We passed to him a number of concerns about the publicised scheme, but it seems that this is very much a notional one with plenty of water still to go under the bridge before something more specific appears.

South Bank

The latest announcement from the Leader of the Council proposing a Joint Venture initiative with a £130m investment fund for the city might just help to kick-start development on the South Bank. One can't help but wonder who the 'blend of investors' are who have to remain anonymous, and of course what their track record is. Have we got enough commercially savvy councillors to act in the very best interests of the city in running the proposed Joint Venture?

PETERBOROUGH AND ITS VILLAGES IN DETAIL



Our publication Peterborough and its Villages in Detail continues to sell well and is still available via all good local bookshops, Amazon and our own website. We have now decided to introduce a **special price for paid-up members** of the Civic Society and members of Peterborough Photographic Society. So, from 1st April, the price for members is only **£10.00** (while stocks last).

If anyone would like further copies please either order via our website or contact Toby Wood and he will arrange swift despatch and delivery.

CONSERVATION AREAS UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

BAINTON CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL
REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
Draft for Consultation



Prepared by: Planning Services, Peterborough City Council
Date: December 2013
Status: Draft for consultation

Jim Daley, the City Council's Conservation officer is responsible, amongst many other things, for ensuring a Conservation Areas are regularly reviewed. The mechanism for this is a periodic Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for each of our Conservation Areas. The plans make a fascinating read and cover the history of the settlement as well as an assessment of the built environment and visual character, and consideration of possible further steps needed to safeguard the special quality of the place, such as modifying the Conservation Area boundary. Society members have recently commented positively on the Plans for Bainton, Marholm and Longthorpe. The plans are available to view on the City Council website.



Newsletter April 2014



CIVIC SOCIETY PLAQUES

We are currently undertaking a review and audit of the Civic Society plaques that have been erected in various parts of the city since 1983. These plaques commemorate a wide range of people, places and things – including Deacon's School, Thorpe Hall, Electric Transport, Dr Thomas Walker and the Theatre Royal in Peterborough, to name but four of the 21 surviving plaques. We are considering the placement and content of the plaques as well as any future inclusions. We are also looking at how best to redo the Society's plaques leaflet as well as how best to use the Internet to best advantage in publicising and promoting these plaques.

Of course we are very keen to hear suggestions from Civic Society members, particularly as to any potential future inclusions. Ideas submitted so far include the Guildhall, Stanley Rec and even Walter Cornelius!

Once this review has taken place the Civic Society committee will decide the best course of action and will inform you of the outcome.



THE FIVE PARISHES JOURNAL

In 2006 The Five Parishes* Journal Volume 1 was published. A second volume is planned for publication later this year. In addition to the parishes included in the original volume, Stibbington and Water Newton are to be added. The writers and compilers of the book are looking for:

- articles on local history not previously published
- pieces on village life in the past
- family histories or mementoes especially linked to World War 1
- reminiscences
- photographs of interest not previously published

If anyone can help with any of the above please contact Peter Lee. Deadline for submissions is the end of April 2014.

* The Five Parishes are Castor, Ailsworth, Marholm with Milton, Upton and Sutton.

NATIONAL TRUST – FREE DAY PASSES

Since Peterborough Civic Society is a member of Civic Voice our members are entitled to day passes giving access to the majority of National Trust properties subject to a small number of restrictions.

National Trust passes (one pass per group member) can be obtained by writing to **Gill Roxborough, Civic Voice, 60 Duke Street, Liverpool, L1 5AA**, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, with contact details and the name of the group which is a member of Civic Voice. This pass is transferable and can be given to friends or family if you are already a member of the National Trust.