



Newsletter April 2018



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VOICE OF THE CITY

A new piece of public art appeared on Lower Bridge Street just before Christmas. It is the latest contribution from the Stephen Broadbent studios which also produced the piece in Long Causeway and the famous steel reed central reservation on Bourges Boulevard as well as doing a particularly good job in upgrading the overbridge into Queensgate there.

The Voice of the City is the fitting culmination to the fascinating story of the 18th Century Peterborough industrialist who cast bells for churches far and wide, not only for Peterborough. It is recognition, too, for the work of Michael Lee, the Wansford historian and bell expert who has spent much of his life researching the story of Henry Penn, bell-founder. It is well worth lingering a few minutes to read the excellent information panel.

Credit must go to Peterborough City Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership for bringing the project to fruition.



GORMLEY'S THE PLACE TO BE FINDS A PLACE TO BE



photo: Peterborough Sculpture Trust

Sir Antony Gormley's 1984 trio of statuesque figures, The Place To Be, will at last find their new home during April. This time, following sojourns outside Greenwoods Solicitors in City Road and at the Thorpe Meadows Sculpture Park and in storage, they will now stand proud on top of buildings and against the skyline. Look out for them on Queensgate next to Carluccio's, above Leeds Building Society and above N and P Building Society.

BLUE PLAQUES



This 18th Century building, known as **THE CUSTOMS HOUSE** served as a granary and warehouse where goods were stored until dues were paid. Sea Cadets occupied the building from 1942.

The Society is now encouraging suggestions for new blue plaques to add to the twenty that were erected in the city centre last year. A protocol and application form are available via the Society's website and all suggestions will be considered. It is envisaged that additional plaques will be commissioned and erected in 2019/2020.

SUMMER VISITS 2018

PLEASE RETURN YOUR BOOKING FORM (ENCLOSED) AND PAYMENT BY APRIL 23rd.

VISIT TO DELAPRE ABBEY (NORTHAMPTON) AND BRIXWORTH CHURCH

Date: Tuesday 8th May 2018 A coach trip Cost £25

The Delapré Abbey began life as a Cluniac nunnery in the 13th Century. Demolished in the Reformation the present buildings are 17th and 18th Century, set in ample grounds. The buildings have a fascinating history but have only recently opened to the public having been rescued from dilapidation thanks to the determined efforts of a local Friends group and the HLF. We will have coffee on arrival, then a guided tour. We can then buy lunch at the abbey café. After lunch we rejoin the coach for the 7 mile trip to the Anglo-Saxon Church of All Saints Brixworth a superb 8th/9th Century survival of national importance where again we will have a guided tour followed by a cup of tea.



Meet the coach at 9.15 am beside the Dragonfly Hotel (at the Peterborough end of the rowing lake) off Thorpe Rd roundabout. **Parking** is available at the public car park with a yellow height barrier between hotel and rowing club (not the hotel car park).

A DAY IN BOSTON

Date: Wednesday 13th June 2018 This is a get-yourself-there trip. Cost: £10

We will gather at The Guildhall, South Street, Boston PE21 6HT at 1.45 pm for a 2pm tour.

The Guildhall Museum a fine medieval building telling 'The Boston Story', from a time when the town was a centre for trade only rivalled by London. We will have a guided tour of the Guildhall then go next door (at about 3pm) to Fydell House. This is a Queen Anne mansion said to be the finest house in Boston and HQ of Boston Preservation Trust. Here we will have refreshments and a guided tour.



If you want to make a day of it, you could arrive in the morning and visit Boston Stump (St Botolph's Church, Church Street, Boston PE21 6NW) and/or the market, since Wednesday is market day.

Parking: There are 13 long stay car parks in Boston and whatever your plans, we suggest you park in South Square (PE21 6HX) or Buoy Yard (PE21 6JX). An excellent leaflet and map 'Boston car park guide 2017/18' can be downloaded from the Boston Council website.

A VISIT TO BUCKDEN TOWERS

Date: Thursday 19th July Again a get-yourself-there trip Cost: £10

We will gather at 6.30pm at Buckden Towers on High Street, Buckden, St Neots PE19 5TA. There is parking on site.

Previously Buckden Palace, a 12th Century timber complex, it was rebuilt as a fortified manor house in 1475. It was used as a stopping place by the Bishops of Lincoln travelling to London but, more famously, was the home of Katherine of Aragon during the King's Great Matter in 1533/4 before she relocated to Kimbolton Castle. It is now used as a conference and retreat centre by a Roman Catholic religious community.



We will have a guided tour of the grounds – supplemented no doubt with learned interjections from our own Henry Duckett – followed by tea and cake.

SOME RECENT PLANNING MATTERS

Whitworth Mill conversion to arts facility. (17/01626/FUL)

We warmly welcomed this application but expressed concern over a large lift/stairwell extension which we considered over dominant in the west elevation. PCC officers agreed with this view and achieved a slight reduction in its height. Although an improvement, our reservations remain. The application was approved and the way is now clear for Vivacity to seek the funding required. It has been reported in local press that some additional receipts from the Fletton Quays development accruing from the increase in the numbers of apartments approved will be allocated to the Mill refurbishment. We await this good news to be confirmed by the City Council.

Fletton Quays Hotel. (17/01766/FUL)

This nine-storey development was approved with some minor amendments to the 'sky-bar' to reduce its visual impact. Our objections to the bulky and overbearing character of this block were discussed by PCC officers with the applicants but no changes were made to address our concerns. Permission granted.

Assisted Housing Units, 270 Eastfield Road (17/02482/FUL)

The principle and scale of development were established in a planning permission granted in 2014/15. We have concerns regarding the way this application relates to the retained element of the locally listed house. The house appears subservient to the proposed extension. We suggested that the extension block to the left of the existing house be set back by an additional 3 metres to more clearly allow it to retain a visual independence. Window openings should have a vertical emphasis. We recommended that amendments be sought. Decision awaited.

Petrol Station, A1 Southbound, Thornhaugh. (17/01101/FUL)

We fully accept that there is a need for a petrol filling station on the southbound A1 and that this site was previously used as such. The proximity of the lay-by to the south of the site is of concern regarding highway users' safety. The exit lane from the PFS would overlap with the lay-by creating an obvious conflict. We strongly recommended that this lay-by be closed before the filling station comes into use. Decision awaited.

Adverts at Westgate church

We reported our opposition to a large fascia sign on the church in our last newsletter. We opposed it, the City Council agreed and it was refused. A more appropriate scheme for illumination of the existing freestanding advert panels has now been approved instead.

Up to 45 dwellings West Street Helpston (17/01448/OUT)

We opposed this application as lying outside the envelope of the village. It is put forward on an argument that the city Council cannot guarantee the existence of 5 years of housing land supply. It goes to the Council's planning committee on 24th April.

Up to 78 dwellings plus open space facilities, Lincoln Road, Glinton. (17/02274/OUT)

Another major application outside a village envelope – this one in the SW corner of Glinton. A 5 year land supply case put forward. We opposed it as the new Local Plan is well on its way and the scheme conflicts with Glinton's Neighbourhood Plan. Decision awaited.

Leper Cemetery, Midland Road (18/00028/DISCH)

No, it's not a planning application for a leper cemetery! The housing scheme approved for the top end of Midland Road included a requirement that an archaeological examination be undertaken of the site. It proved to be the site of the St Leonard's leper cemetery. The resultant 300 page report has been submitted to the Council in order to demonstrate the discharge of the planning condition. It makes fascinating reading.

Red Brick Farm- business, industrial and warehousing (18/00080/OUT)

This application is the next step in a major site with a Local Plan allocation for such development. It is bounded by Oxney Road, Edgerley Drain Road and Storeys Bar Road. 166,000 sq. metres of floor space and some building up to 21m high. Our concerns were the woefully inadequate landscaping for the perimeter and frontages. We were uneasy about the height, but considered that significant views of the Cathedral would not be affected. We opposed the application: Decision awaited.

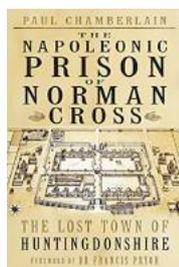
GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

There are major changes in the data protection regulations that come into force in May of this year. From then on, all organisations that have membership lists and contact their members by post or email will be required to keep a record of "positive consent" from their members. It will become unlawful for us to send information, such as annual reports or newsletters, either by post or email, to any member who has not notified us of their consent. The new regulations are being introduced across Europe and are expected to continue to apply in the UK after Brexit. One purpose of the new regulations is to protect people from harassment by unwanted contacts. Small charities like ours are not the type of organisation that is in the sights of the authorities, but the difficulty of drafting workable exemptions means that we are covered by the regulations and have to take the necessary steps to comply.

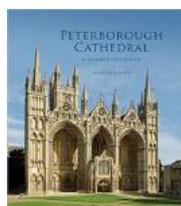
If you normally receive information from us by email, you will already have received an email from the Membership Secretary asking you to send a reply email confirming your consent to future contact by both email and post. Please reply to this email in the terms requested, if you have not already done so. If you normally receive information from us by post only, a letter from the Membership Secretary has been enclosed with this newsletter requesting your consent, and we will greatly appreciate your early reply, using the stamped addressed envelope provided.

We now send out various items of information by email which would be too costly or impractical to send by post. If you are currently a "post only" member but are able to receive emails, please take this opportunity to provide us with your email address where invited to do so on the consent form. This will ensure that, in future, you will be able to receive the full range of information about our activities and events. As well as governing contacts with members, the GDPR covers many other aspects of information gathering, including how membership information may be used and how it must be kept secure. Subject to confirmation at the April Committee meeting, the Society has a new Privacy Policy covering all of the relevant points. It can be found on our website in the "about us" section. If you would like to receive a printed copy, please contact the Membership Secretary.

NEW BOOKS



Paul Chamberlain's book, 'The Napoleonic Prison of Norman Cross: The Lost Town of Huntingdonshire' is now out and copies will be available at Civic Society meetings at a special rate. It takes forward the excellent work published by Dr Walker in 1913 with the benefit of Paul's intensive examination of Admiralty records now in the public arena. He has researched the lives of many of the individuals incarcerated in the camp in its operational period (1797- 1814) and their militia guards setting their lives into the realities of the time. There is also extra detail on the camp itself. A 200 page hard-back with colour plates, it has a cover price of £16.99 but will be available through the Society at £15.



At last – a new book on the Cathedral! Jonathan Foyle's long anticipated book on Peterborough Cathedral, 'Peterborough Cathedral- A glimpse of Heaven' is now available and for sale initially only in the Cathedral bookshop. Published by SCALA and drawing on the very latest unpublished research on the building, it is a worthy successor to his books on Canterbury, Lincoln and Lichfield Cathedrals. Well worth its £19.95.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2018

Don't forget to put the dates of this in your diary - **Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th June** in the heart of the City Centre - Cathedral Square and the Cathedral Precincts. As usual there will be lots to see especially for families. We will be there with our stall - come and see us, or join us manning the stall - it doesn't just have to be the committee members who get the Fun of the Festival! If you would like to volunteer for a couple of hours over the weekend please contact Peter Lee or Toby Wood.