



Newsletter April 2013



produced by Peter Lee (01780 782703) and Toby Wood (01733 345123)

ST PETER'S ARCADE

From out of the blue a planning application was made by the City Council in January for a change of use of a couple of small offices behind the Visitor Information Centre in Bridge Street to retail, and, more significantly, the construction of sliding doors at either end of adjacent St Peter's Arcade.

There was no explanation as to why the well-established thoroughfare was to be closed off, or the hours when it was to be shut. There was no acknowledgement that as a long-established right of way the public had acquired a legal right of passage.



Despite a strong objection from the Society and two other objectors that an important link in the City Centre was to be closed off, the application was written up for approval under the Council's delegated 'chairman's action' procedure. The Society lodged a formal complaint, the chairman's action was stopped, the application withdrawn and senior officers apologised for not having dealt properly with the right of way matter.

Members of your committee attended a meeting at the Town Hall where we were assured that the current, and welcome, refurbishment of St Peters Arcade is going ahead and that the reason for the doors was to deter rough sleeping and other anti-social behaviour. We are keen to see other methods employed to deal with these problems. We were told that a revised application would be made omitting the doors. This has now been made. If the Council determines to press ahead with doors later, these will be subject to a gating order setting out exactly what closure hours are proposed. We expect to object to a gating order should it be made and await further developments.

A TO DO LIST (just for you)!

Here is your very own **TO DO LIST!**



<input type="checkbox"/>	Order tickets for Chairman's evening - see leaflet
<input type="checkbox"/>	Order tickets for Summer Visits - see page 4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Respond to Winter Talks - your views – see page 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pay my subscription if there is a reminder letter with this newsletter

www.peterborough.net/civicsociety/



Newsletter April 2013



OUR SECRETARY IS LEAVING

Patricia Stuart-Mogg has been the Civic Society's Secretary for almost seven years. For some of that time she has combined looking after our secretarial needs with her full-time job as Town Clerk to Stamford Town Council. Not surprisingly, the pressures of that role - and especially the commitments to evening meetings - now mean that she needs to relinquish her role with the Civic Society. We shall be sorry to lose her and will miss her irrepressible optimism and efficiency.

Your committee is optimistic that it will be able quickly to replace Patricia as Secretary. However we are still on the look-out for someone to join our committee in a publicity role. If you might be interested and have e-mail please get in touch with me for a general chat about what's involved.

Peter Lee

WINTER TALKS – YOUR VIEWS PLEASE

Most of our winter talks at St Mark's church hall were on evenings that were not just dark but damp snowy and very cold - just the sort of evening when most folk want to hunker down indoors. The attendance for some of the talks reflected that. This has led us to consider whether we should hold our winter talks during the day instead, probably at the same venue. What do you think? If you didn't attend some of our evening meetings would you be more likely to come during the daytime?

Please give us your views to Peter Lee (01780 782703) or peter.g.lee@btinternet.com) or Toby Wood (01733 345123) or tobywood2008@googlemail.com) or to any committee member.

CHAIRMAN'S EVENING

We are delighted to announce that, for our 2013 Chairman's Evening Dr Stephen Upex will be talking about **Greater Roman Peterborough – current thinking** at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 23rd May in Castor School Hall. The event is arranged in partnership with St. Kyneburgha Building Preservation Trust. Funds raised will go towards its work in maintaining the remarkable Romanesque church of Castor.

Full details are available either on our website or on the leaflet enclosed with this newsletter.



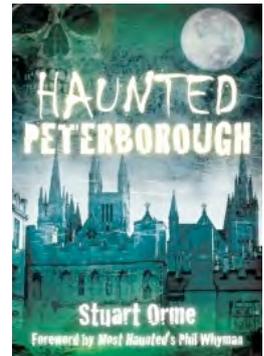
Newsletter April 2013



NEW BOOK: Haunted Peterborough

Haunted Peterborough by **Stuart Orme**: The History Press: £9.99

Stuart Orme is a huge asset to Peterborough. I have yet to meet anyone who is not bowled over by his knowledge of history - and Peterborough's part in the broader sweep - his enthusiasm and his energy. For the past 11 years, as part of his role as Heritage Manager with the City Council and now Vivacity he has been researching and delivering his ghost walks and led an amazing 30,000 people on them.



But he can write too! This excellent book calmly sets out a host of very believable ghost sightings against the context of Peterborough's history. Never before have I read a very informative local history book whilst receiving waves of full-body goose-bumps! It's a real achievement.

The book is available from Peterborough Museum and city centre bookshops.

Peter Lee

BRIDGE HOUSE MURAL

Following the article in the 2012 Annual Report on the Bridge House bas-relief sculpture and the internal tile mural we have the following from Peterborough's current Poet Laureate, Simon Stabler.

Missing Mural Mayhem

Will the Bridge House mural ever again see the light of day?

Or is it destined to be forever hidden away?

And if they dug it out, where would it be placed?

Swamped on the side of TX Maxx would be a disgrace

It needs to be somewhere special, maybe the station or a school

Or how about a plinth outside the Regional Pool?

Such a lack of planning is typically shambolic

As was the decision for Bridge House to be demolished





Newsletter April 2013



SUMMER IS COMING! Book your summer visits early!

Tuesday 21st May - Milton Hall guided tour of the house

Sir Philip Naylor Leyland has generously agreed to a Civic Society tour to the interior of the Hall. This will involve 1½ hours standing and climbing stairs, so is not good for disabled visitors. William Craven, our tour leader, has offered, as an optional extra, a visit to Marholm church for anyone who still has energy left after the house tour.

Meet 2.00 pm at the Milton Park Estate Office off Bretton Way (the turning before Fitzwilliam Hospital) in as few cars as possible please. Then we will travel in convoy to the house for a tour start prompt at 2.15 p.m. Cost: £3.50

4th June - Woodwalton Fen guided tour

Meet 2.00 p.m. at Woodwalton Fen at the end of the access road from Ramsey Heights (south of Ramsey St Mary's) for a 2.15 pm tour. Walk expected to take 1½ to 2 hours along grassy and possibly rather wet walkways not really suitable for wheel-chairs. Appropriate footwear needed! Cost: £3.50

Wednesday 3rd July – Elgood's Brewery, North Brink, Wisbech

Meet at the brewery 5.45 p.m. for 6.00 p.m. tour. This includes the tasting of up to three beers, access to the Garden and Visitor Centre. (There are stairs involved). For an extra charge refreshments will be included after the tour.

Cost: £6.50 for tour or £13.50 for tour plus supper. (We are assuming most people will want to make an evening of it and stay for something to eat, finishing the event at 9.00 p.m. but you have a choice). *Please be sure to book by 20th June for this visit.*

To Book please complete the form inserted into this newsletter and send to Mrs Pauline Sidebottom, 150 Thorpe Road, Peterborough PE3 6JJ Tel: 01733 566543.

BOOK EARLY - PLACES ARE LIMITED!

CIVIC VOICE



... and finally! If you want to keep up-to-date with other civic societies and their activities please visit the Civic Voice website to see what issues and campaigns are currently exercising our minds at a national level.

www.civicvoice.org.uk/

www.peterborough.net/civicsociety/