



Newsletter December 2019

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CATHEDRAL VIEWS

The team of Society members working on this project under David Turnock's leadership has now assembled photographs of over 100 vantage points around Peterborough and the surrounding countryside from which the Cathedral can be seen (or glimpsed).

Summer and winter pictures have been taken from the same viewpoints and the nature of the view assessed.

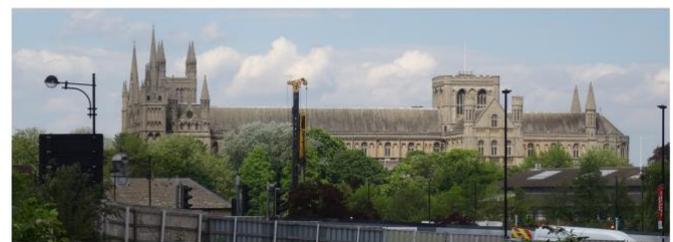
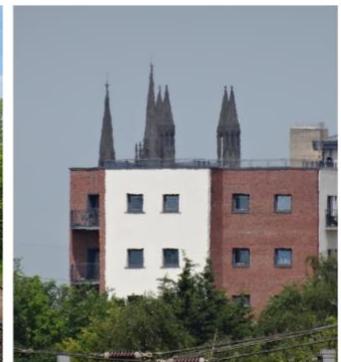
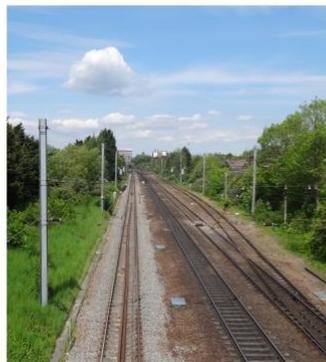
The next task is to liaise with Sam Falco and Dan Worley from the City Council and during 2020 make all the information readily accessible and available for use by planning officers in their negotiations with developers. Hopefully members of the public will also have access.

On the right are three pairs of views of the Cathedral from the south side of the city:

Top – view looking north from the east side of London Road at the point where it crosses the railway

Middle – taken on Fletton High Street from the bridge over the railway line

Bottom – view taken from Hawksbill Way approaching London Road football ground. This view was only revealed when Bridge House was demolished. It will disappear during 2020 when the hotel is built as part of the Fletton Quays development.



FLETTON QUAYS LATEST



The final four elements of this scheme are taking shape.

The hotel and housing scheme on the Town Bridge frontage have received planning approval. A new office scheme on the former Anglian Water office site (also fronting London Road) has been submitted for planning.

The former Mill (pictured), sadly no longer planned for an arts-based attraction, is being marketed for a residential scheme together with the adjacent river-frontage land.

So our hopes for a leisure/arts/cultural draw now rest solidly with the former goods shed between the lowest Weston Homes apartment block and the former Mill. A listed building, it is in poor condition but a project team is now in place to extend and convert it into a Distillery/Visitor Centre/ Restaurant/Bar with Conference and function space.

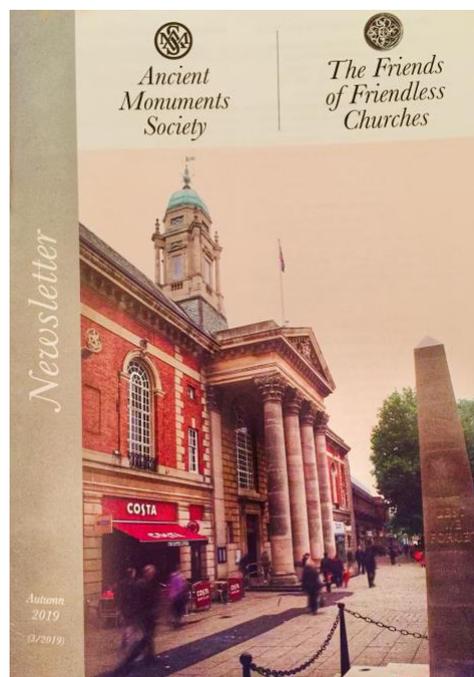
Three of your committee met with the Peterborough Investment Partnership project team in December and were impressed with the initial drawings for the scheme. Hopes are high for it to become a 'footfall driver', but clearly this would be greatly aided by a pedestrian bridge from the Embankment which your Society (and the Peterborough Telegraph) have long pressed for. We expect a planning application in February.

THE TOWN HALL AND CHRISTOPHER WREN ...

A fine picture of the Town Hall appears on the cover of the Autumn joint newsletter of the Ancient Monuments Society and The Friends of Friendless Churches. This is because the Government recently made a £700,000 allocation to pay for an extra drive nationally on Local Listing.

The accompanying comment in the magazine says that Peterborough's Town Hall is on its Local List. 'But the Town Hall, a splendid homage to Wren, deserves the 'full' protection that comes with statutory listing, and if non-statutory Local Listing is worth £700,000 then how much needs to flow into the system for statutory protection?'

A good point. Peterborough statutory list badly needs updating by Historic England. But instead the Government wants local councils to add to the lower level of protection conferred by Local Lists. Peterborough's Local List can be found on the Council's web site. It is called 'Local List of Heritage Assets in Peterborough'.



BLUE PLAQUES LATEST

Our next round of Blue Plaques is progressing well with all funding in place. 2020 will see new plaques celebrating the following:

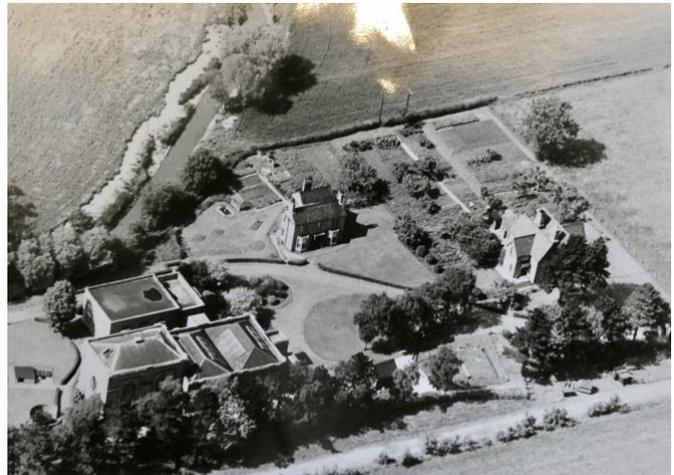
- The Sage Family, lost in the Titanic disaster, in Gladstone Street
- The Guildhall, Cathedral Square
- John Addy, engineer of Peterborough's first public water supply, St John's Square
- Peterborough Museum, Priestgate
- King's School, Park Road
- Daphne Jackson, nuclear physicist, Lincoln Road
- Marjorie Pollard, sportswoman, Lincoln Road
- The War Memorial Hospital, Midland Road
- Edith Cavell and the Laurel Court school, Cathedral cloisters
- Almoners Hall, Gravel Walk
- John Fletcher, collaborator with Shakespeare, Minster Precincts
- Simon Gunton, historian, Minster Precincts
- London Brick Company and its workers on Phorpres House, London Road
- East Station, Fletton Quays
- Victorian Engine Shed, Fletton Quays



These plaques will be in addition to the twenty-one that are already installed in and around the city centre, making a total of thirty-six in all.

Can you help us? We are still on the look-out for pictures to illustrate some of these in the accompanying brochure and app, so if you have an image that might be of interest please send Toby Wood an email or give him a call. We are especially interested in pictures of the War Memorial Hospital, the Museum when it was a hospital, John Addy and London Brick Company workers from the post-World War Two years.

A recent find was this aerial photo of the site of John Addy's original water source for Peterborough located at Wilsthorpe, near Bourne, brought into use in 1879, and still in operation. We believe this photo dates from the 1950s before the demolition of Addy's original engine house, which can be seen in the bottom left hand corner. The railway line running alongside the site had already been dismantled by then and along with it the siding used for the delivery of coal to power the steam driven machinery.



CIVIC SOCIETY WEBSITE

Our Treasurer, Roger Davis and Web Master, Ian Webb, have been making some alterations to our website. It can now take on-line orders, so purchasing Civic Society goods has never been easier! Please continue to visit our website. Ian works hard and is constantly changing and updating its content. He welcomes any feedback or suggestions for improvement or future content.

WYNDHAM THOMAS

The Peterborough Civic Society members were sad to learn of the death of Wyndham Thomas, an adopted son of Peterborough. Kem Mehmed has written the following, some of which appeared in the Peterborough Telegraph.

Wyndham Thomas came to Peterborough as the General Manager of the Development Corporation in 1968. He was a man with vision and a mission who could see the potential to transform this historic city into a place where people and businesses could make a new future for themselves. As you drive around the city today you may be on a Parkway, a system of high capacity roads within landscaped parkland, a concept Wyndham saw in the USA. He was a fervent advocate of the Garden City and his vision of a family house with a garden set in a neighbourhood full of trees and landscaped open spaces was an ever present in his time here. The transformation of the city centre was a vital part of his thinking and we still enjoy the shops of Queensgate and the traffic free landscaped streets he worked to create. Some might say the jewel in the crown of his legacy is Ferry Meadows, the centre piece of Nene Park which runs through the city for its entire extent from the Great North Road in the west to the Fens in the east. He was a vigorous advocate for this concept of a public park for all the people which was part of the plan for the city from the very beginning. There are many other things that he promoted which we still benefit from and which are part of his legacy. To paraphrase a well-known epitaph; "If you seek his monument-spend some time in Peterborough."

BRIAN MAWHINNEY

As most members will already be aware Brian Mawhinney, the former cabinet minister and Football League chairman, died on 9 November aged 79 after a long illness. Lord Mawhinney was elected MP for Peterborough in 1979 and later represented North West Cambridgeshire, retiring in 2005. He was a member of the cabinet from 1994 until 1997.

He became a junior minister at the Northern Ireland Office in 1986, and then became Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office in 1990. In 1992 he became Minister of State at the Department of Health until 1994. He also served as transport secretary and minister without portfolio. He was knighted in 1997 and created a life peer in 2005. He also served as Football League chairman for seven years from 2003.

The Society's condolences go to his wife Betty and family.

LOTTERY WINNERS 2019

Our lottery was drawn at our December meeting and the winners were:

1st prize - £60 – Martha Powell

2nd prize - £50 – Rex & Anne Birchenough

3rd prize - £40 – Dr Chris Ashcroft

4th prize - £30 - Susan Anstruther

5th prize - £20 – Sheila Martin

The Lottery made £175 for Society funds. Thank you to everyone who supported the lottery.



**Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all Civic Society members
and their families**