



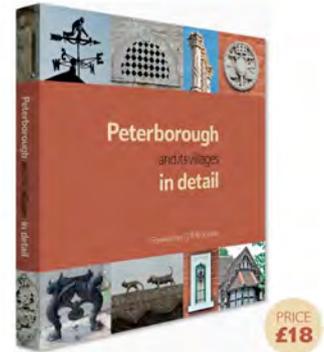
Newsletter December 2012

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



The Book's Out!

Our joint project with Peterborough Photographic Society, the 216-page hardback book **'Peterborough and its Villages in Detail'** was successfully launched on 28th November. Most subscribers to the book turned up to collect their copy and almost filled the John Clare Theatre at the Central Library.



After a welcome from the Deputy Mayor and an entertaining presentation from Toby Wood and David Jost, chairman Peter Lee thanked the many people whose confidence in the project had enabled a significant proportion of the project to be advance funded. Copies of the book were then presented to Pricilla Padley. The book is dedicated to her father, the late Harry Paten - founder of the Peterborough Society - and Richard Paten, her brother. Richard Houghton, President of the Photographic Society, then presented a copy to Peter Harvey, member of that Society for almost 50 years, to whom the book is also dedicated.

There is no doubt that the Society owes a big debt of gratitude to the 8 photographers who contributed images to the book, to our own Henry Duckett for producing a highly informative text and to Jigsaw Design & Publishing and the working group under David Jost's leadership.

A selection of photographs from the event is featured on the last page of this newsletter.

... and it's selling well!

Three local companies have bought multiple copies of the book for client gifts (Father Christmas prevents me from disclosing who they are!) and we are pleased that the City Council has bought 24 for use as civic gifts - a welcome endorsement of its quality. David Jost has negotiated with retail outlets and achieved prominent sales positions for the book in Peterborough's Waterstones, W H Smith, the Visitor Information Centre and Cathedral Bookshop. It is also available from Walkers in Stamford and the Oundle Bookshop. Sales are going very well indeed in this pre-Christmas period.

However we are keen to sell as many as possible direct, whether through the Society's website or by contacting Tony Knighton (Tel: 01733 314861 or e-mail: maton1@yahoo.co.uk).

Talks about the history of the Society and the production of the book have been given to local societies (e.g. the Photographic Society and branches of Rotary) resulting in even more sales and we are happy to attend meetings and events of other groups.



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Alice Kershaw – Bon Voyage and Good Luck

Almost three years ago Alice was appointed as Peterborough's Heritage Regeneration Officer, a post jointly funded by the City Council, Opportunity Peterborough and English Heritage. With strong backing from those three organisations, Alice has made a major impact on the profile of Peterborough's heritage.

The Civic Society has enjoyed working with her on the lunchtime talks at St John's Church, on the Buildings in Need project (involving external surveying of the buildings in the City Centre Conservation Area and for which she presented the Society with a Heritage Angel award at the book launch), on the book project itself and through membership of the City's Heritage Strategy Group chaired by Cllr Matthew Lee.



Sadly, but not unexpectedly, she is now moving on, to a post with the Heritage Lottery Fund in the London region. We will miss her but wish her every success. Whether in these straitened times the funding can be found to replace her remains to be seen. We sincerely hope so – she leaves behind a big gap that will be hard to fill.

Civic Society Lottery

Many thanks to all who bought tickets for our annual lottery run for us for the first time by Liz Davis. The lottery raised a welcome **£225** for the Society.

The winners were:

- ❖ Dorothy Halfhide
- ❖ Roy Bird
- ❖ George Shepperson
- ❖ Richard Winfrey





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Planning

49-55 Priestgate Several members of the Society have expressed concern about the future of these properties opposite the Museum. Certainly some will have become alarmed having read a particularly misleading letter in the Peterborough Telegraph. The proposal, by Cross Keys Homes, is for:

- Residential conversion of the listed buildings No's 49-51, and demolition and replacement of the unlisted single storey No 53 to create 11 self-contained apartments;
- Two new buildings to the rear creating 16 units. One range is behind No 49, the other a free-standing block opposite the Telegraph offices on the north-south section of Priestgate;
- Conversion of No 55 (closest to the camera in the picture) into 2 units.



This latest application (Ref 12/01085/FUL) was supported by the Society's Plans Group. Its reasoning was this. A very similar scheme by a private sector developer had been submitted in 2008 and approved, but proved to be unworkable. As a consequence this important group of buildings had been vacant and deteriorating for a considerable time with evidence of water penetration and damage. The new scheme is a slight improvement on the earlier one physically. The major difference is that the scheme is now for "affordable" housing. The definition of an affordable housing scheme is one where 70% of the units are social rented and 30% intermediate (e.g. equity share). Whilst the location might appear an unusual one for social housing, the Plans Group felt it quite inappropriate to object on this score not least because responsible local management would be available.

Car Wash at 90 Westgate The Plans Group objected to a scheme for a car wash on the site of the now-demolished pub at 90 Westgate (part of the North-Westgate redevelopment area). Highly visible for visitors to the City Centre, the scheme was felt to be quite inappropriate in this location. It has been refused as such.

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



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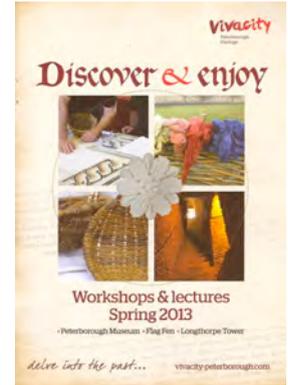


Events in the New Year

Vivacity

On **January 14th** our speaker is **Shelagh Smith**, the chair of Vivacity, Peterborough's Culture and Leisure Trust. Her theme is **"Is Vivacity a Success?"**

Given the degree of alarm that many of us felt when the Trust idea was in gestation, and the very positive developments that have taken place since, it should be a popular topic. Incidentally, Vivacity's programme of heritage-related workshops and lectures for Spring 2013 is exceptionally exciting. I recommend you get a copy of their brochure. It's called 'Discover and Enjoy'. Copies are available at the museum and on the Vivacity website and will also be available at Shelagh Smith's talk.



Peterborough In Detail Book Launch



1 Pricilla Padley with Peter Lee

2 Daniela Pierri Brewer, Tony Lovell, John Clark, Richard Houghton, David Good, Janet Davies, Liz Kemp

3 Richard Houghton, Deputy Mayor Cllr June Stokes, deputy Mayoress Karien Gait and Peter Lee

4 David Jost, Henry Duckett, Toby Wood and Peter Lee