



Newsletter July 2013



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WINTER PROGRAMME

Here is a preview of our winter programme organised by Jeremy Roberts. There may be some minor amendments to subject themes, but these are the dates and speakers for your diary. All meetings are at **7:30pm St Mark's Church Hall Lincoln Road, Peterborough.**

DATE	SPEAKER
Monday 14 October 2013	Sir Graham Bright Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner
Monday 11 November 2013	His Honour Judge Christopher Young The opening of Peterborough Crown Court
Monday 9 December 2013	Neil Mitchell - Local Historian Peterborough Tram History
Monday 13 January 2014	Annette Joyce – PCC City Centre Operations Peterborough City Centre Plans & Tourism
Monday 10 February 2014	Richard Hillier - Vivacity Local Studies Librarian The Peterborough Land Company and the Victorian development of Peterborough
Monday 10 March 2014	Paul Smith - Archivist Thomas Cook Thomas Cook and the origins of Popular Tourism

NEW SECRETARY

In the last newsletter we reported that Patricia Stuart-Mogg sadly had to stand down as our secretary due to the pressures of work in her day-job as Town Clerk of Stamford.

Quite unexpectedly (and as a consequence of our Chairman's evening being arranged jointly with St Kyneburgha's Building Preservation Trust), we were introduced to Dr Ian Baugh (rhymes with door) who has taken on the role of Secretary for us.



A geographer by training at Southampton and Aberdeen, he worked for many years in the Nature Conservancy Council and then as an IT project manager for Thomas Cook in Peterborough. Ian moved to Peterborough in 1985 to live in Ailsworth. Latterly he worked for the Ministry of Justice in London as Programme Manager for a new £100m Court building for the High Court of London. Previously he has been secretary of the local Village Hall and the Parochial Church Council. His interests are walking, cycling, gardening and DIY.



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HERITAGE WEEKEND

Another highly successful festival of all things historic took place at Cathedral Square and the Cathedral Precincts over the 22nd/23rd June week-end. Our stall joined a dozen or so other societies with heritage interests and concerns to supplement an extravaganza of re-enactor displays, demonstrations, parades, entertainment and historic craft stalls. There was also a chance to hear an excellent talk by Lucy Worsley in the Cathedral on Saturday evening.

Thanks to Toby Wood, Pauline Sidebottom, Jeremy Roberts, David Turnock, Henry Duckett and Tony Knighton for manning our stall and selling copies of Peterborough in Detail, tea towels and even one of the few remaining copies of our RAF Peterborough DVD.



The photograph on the left shows Peterborough In Detail's author, Henry Duckett, discussing the book with an interested bystander.

At one point during the Heritage Weekend a legion of Roman soldiers directly faced the Civic Society's stall and looked decidedly hostile. Civic Society members will be pleased to read that any potential threat to our display, selection of postcards, annual reports, leaflets DVDs and tea-towels was dispelled by committee members who out-stared them – eventually the soldiers marched briskly away onto Cathedral Square.





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OUR WINTER MEETINGS SURVEY

The last newsletter asked members to give their opinions on whether they would prefer us to hold our winter programme of speakers during the day or stay with evening meetings. Thank you to those who responded. In summary:

26 members have expressed their views. Of those:

10 would prefer day-time meetings

12 would prefer to stay with evening meetings

4 had no preference (1 suggested twilight meetings!)

Your committee has decided to stay with evening meetings for the coming season on the basis that:

- ✓ Our programme of speakers for 2013/14 has now been arranged on the basis of evening meetings;
- ✓ Day-time meetings will exclude working- age members;
- ✓ Convenient parking is a problem during the day (St Marks' is let during working hours and the nearby Craig Street car park will be closed for development soon. Similar issues apply to several other city centre venues);
- ✓ Evening hire rates tend to be cheaper and bookings less likely to compete with business or pre-school sessions.

That said, your committee is very alive to the fact that day-time meetings are more popular with many of our members of retirement age. Accordingly the issue will be kept under review for the seasons after 2013/14. So if you have not submitted your thoughts on the matter please let me or another committee members have them- we will be returning to the subject.

Peter Lee

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 list of the cases the group has commented upon and which the City Council has decided 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 web-site:

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

www.peterborough.net/civicsociety/



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12/01639/FUL 2 houses on land north of 54 Main Street Ailsworth.

Our comments: No objection in principle. But the higher number of units anticipated in the Allocations Document would have provided the opportunity for a development more in keeping with the village. However our concern is the design chosen. Despite its irregular layout the elevations adopt an excessively formal neo-Georgian style. They have produced an overscaled and somewhat aggrandised feel to the scheme, at odds with the scale, grain and variety of the setting and in a situation of considerable prominence on the village edge.

Council's decision: Refused

13/00310/FUL 14 houses on former Vawser Lodge site Thorpe Road.

Our comments: welcomed the application as setting an appropriate high quality development style for this western end of the District Hospital Opportunity Area and suggested minor revisions.

Council's decision: Permission granted 6th June

13/00332/FUL Restoration works 50 Cowgate (former cycle shop)

Our comments: Strongly supported the application. Welcome the clear and detailed nature of this exemplary repair and restoration scheme and supported the insertion of dormers in the roof which would not only facilitate the occupation of the upper floor but also give the building an improved presence at this vital gateway into the City Centre.

Council's decision: Permission granted 23rd April

13/00401/LBC Solar thermal panels on roof of Gamekeepers Cottage, High Field Road Ashton.

Our comments: Objected as a very prominent and unsightly element on a roof slope very visible from the southerly approach to the village. The impact would also result in an erosion of the special interest of the building.

Council's decision: Refused 13th June

13/00416/R3FUL St Peter's Arcade: Refurbishment, change of use of office to retail rear of Visitor Centre and remodelling of access ramp. (This was a revised application, omitting the gates previously proposed to the Arcade which the Society opposed – see our April 2013 Newsletter on our website).

Our comments: Welcomed the refurbishment works currently under way, had no objections to this revised application and welcomed the omission of the doors previously proposed.

Council's decision: Permission granted 15th May

13/00505/FUL Peterborough Cathedral: Universal access via ramp to the West Front of the

Cathedral; re-grade and re-surface the southern path to the front of Nos 24-28 Minster Precincts

Our comments: Opposed ramped access to west front porch on basis of disruption to the proportions of the internationally important West front and availability of an alternative ramped access via portico. No objection to path outside 24-28. Note: a fuller explanation of the Society's views will appear in the Annual Report.

Council's decision: Permission granted 6th June

13/00520/FUL 24, 25 & Knights Chamber, Cathedral Precincts. Conversion of No. 25 from residential to a combined heritage and education centre for Peterborough Cathedral. Replacement of rear car park with garden area and landscaping to rear of no 24 and 25.

Our comments: Supports this beautifully clear and well-worked scheme involving minimal physical change. The link with the Knight's Chamber is deftly handled and supported with an archaeological report.

Council's decision: Permission granted 13th June