



Newsletter July 2014



produced by Peter Lee 01780 782703 peter.g.lee@btinternet.com
Toby Wood 01733 732784 tobywood2008@googlemail.com

HERITAGE WEEKEND 2014



Local historian Neil Mitchell talks to David Jost and Henry Duckett at the Civic Society stall

Peterborough Heritage Festival was held on the weekend of 21st/22nd June and was once again hailed as a great success in no small part due to the seasonally warm, calm weather. Stuart Orme, Vivacity's Events and Programmes Manager, estimated that over 30,000 people visited the event over the weekend.

The Civic Society had a stall over the whole weekend – thanks must go to those committee members who manned the stall and talked to bystanders and passers-by about the Society and its work. Sales of Peterborough and Its Villages In Detail and Society tea-towels were brisk.

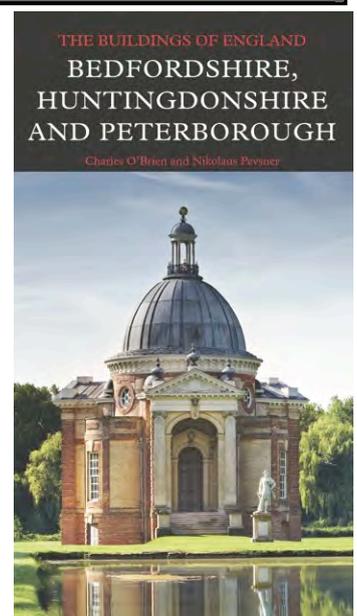
As committee member Toby Wood put it on Twitter, "Heritage Festival great fun! Potpourri of history, heritage and entertainment. Credit to all involved."

PEVSNER REVISED – OUT SOON!

At last Pevsner has been revised!

Some members may recall that Charles O'Brien gave a talk at the Society's Chairman's evening at the Great Northern Hotel back in 2008. At that time he was just beginning work on the updated version of the 'Bedfordshire, Huntingdon and Peterborough' volume in Nikolaus Pevsner's Buildings of England Series. We were able to put him in touch with a number of folk locally who were itching to either correct an error in the 1968 original (famously dedicated 'To the Inventor of the ICED LOLLY'!) or petition him for the inclusion of the many buildings of interest that Pevsner originally passed over. At £35 the book is not cheap, but as with all the updated Pevsners, it will be packed with new material. You will see from the order form that it is 800 pages. (The 1968 original is 400). (The Society is not taking a cut from sales - some of its members are just excited!)

We have now been contacted by Yale Books and they have asked that we let you know details of the book. Please refer to the flyer on the back of this newsletter or visit Yale Books website www.yalebooks.co.uk



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 selection of the cases it has commented upon together with the subsequent decision made by City Council 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 & Building Online Register.

13/00933/FUL 4-turbine wind farm at French Drove Thorney. Civic Society concerned re inadequate photo-montages. Impact on views of Crowland Abbey and on views from Cathedral tower not considered. City Council resolved to approve February 2014. Called in for Secretary of State decision June.

14/00197/R3FUL Installation of fixed glazed screens to each end of St Peter's Arcade, Bridge St. Following withdrawal of door proposal, this application was for fixed screens but with a 2m wide pedestrian access gap. Civic Society opposed this obstruction to pedestrians prams and cycles. Consent 22nd April 2014.

14/00456/LBC Rear extension at 58 Cherry Orton Road Orton Waterville. Society objected - grossly inadequate drawings. City Council refused application as harmful and unsympathetic to character of a listed building and poor detailing. Refused May 2014.

14/00435/LBC 3-5 Bridge St (Nat-West Bank) Signs and internal alterations. Society commented that signs in primary colours conflicted with muted tones of elevations. Internal alterations-suggested condition requiring retention and protection of existing panelling. Consent May 2014. Conditions imposed.

14/00515/FUL New house North Lodge Main St Ufford. Society commented that generally a good scheme, but front elevation windows need re-proportioning with more vertical emphasis. City Council agreed. Revised plans submitted and scheme approved May 2014.

14/00536/OUT Peterborough District Hospital site. Outline application for residential, primary school and access. Detailed comments submitted on urban form, access and movement, residential content and demolition. Copy of letter available on request.

14/00533/FUL extra floor on Hereward House tower block and recladding. Residential use has been approved. The extra floor linked between the 2 lift towers and recladding changes appearance of tower for the better. Society uneasy about additional floor but accepted the general improvements proposed. Consent June 2014.

14/00650/LBC Demolition of modern extensions at The Gables, Thorpe Road. Society supported application subject to conditions to protect free-standing original gateway and proper making good of openings. Consent June 2014 with conditions addressing these points.

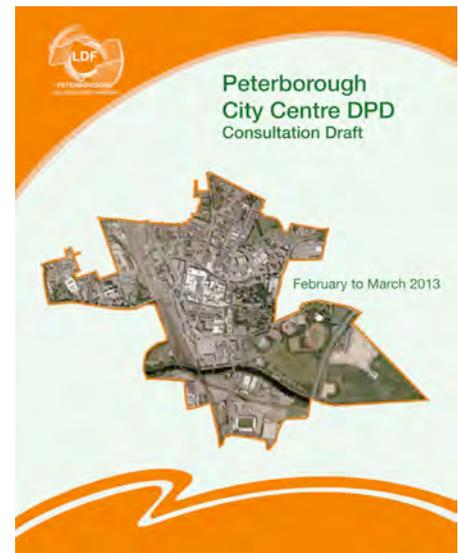
14/00728/FUL replacement doors and windows 9-15 Cavell Court and 7-15 North St. This follows from the proposed 'permitted development' change of use from office to residential. The Society considered that the opportunity should be taken to improve the appearance by use of sash windows with horizontal bar. City Council encouraged this but considered it unreasonable to insist. Consent June 2014



THE CIVIC SOCIETY AND THE CITY CENTRE PLAN

“It is by their centres that cities are recognised, judged and remembered”. This quote, from the Development Corporation’s 1971 City Centre Plan, is as true now as it was then, and is why care is needed in balancing the demand for growth with the safeguarding of the best of our built heritage which is a fundamental part of the uniqueness and attractiveness of our city. A key instrument in establishing that balance is the set of City Centre Plan policies against which new schemes can be assessed. We consider that the Council has not got that balance right.

A formal City Centre Plan for Peterborough has been a long time coming. The last set of policies produced to guide development of the City Centre was in July 2005. Then, the City Centre had a chapter to itself in the crisply named ‘Peterborough Local Plan (First Replacement)’. Under the current planning regime, several documents together add up to a Local Plan and the City Centre, quite appropriately, has a plan to itself. The draft emerged for consultation in February last year. The Society made objections. Following revisions, the Plan reached its Submission (to government) stage in January this year, but still failed to meet our concerns.



The next stage is an Examination in Public (EIP) over the three days 22nd to 24th July. This is a public hearing at which the key unresolved issues between the City Council and objectors are explored by an Inspector whose job is to test the Plan for ‘soundness’. David Turnock has volunteered to represent the Society at this EIP.

So what are our concerns? In summary, we say that, first, insufficient attention is given in the Plan to the delivery of good design and, second, that insufficient detail is given to safeguard specific views through to the Cathedral. We consider that the plan is therefore unsound. We take some encouragement that some of our views are shared by English Heritage who will be appearing alongside us at the EIP.

These matters will be explored at 2pm on Tuesday 22nd July at Stuart House East wing, St John’s Street under the headings of whether the plan:

- Contains sufficient detail to reinforce local distinctiveness
- Should provide for design review arrangements
- Should include policies to control the height of buildings within the City Centre
- Provides sufficient detail to protect views of the Cathedral.

Your committee is hugely grateful that David Turnock as a respected practising architect and Vice-chair of the Society will be putting our case.

NATIONAL TRUST – FREE DAY PASSES

Civic Voice have confirmed that National Trust passes are available each year, one for each member of a society in membership of Civic Voice, subject to the terms and conditions set out by the National Trust.

Since Peterborough Civic Society is a member of Civic Voice our members are entitled to day passes giving access to the majority of National Trust properties subject to a small number of restrictions.

National Trust passes (one pass per group member) can be obtained by writing to **Gill Roxborough, Civic Voice, 60 Duke Street, Liverpool, L1 5AA**, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, with contact details and the name of the group which is a member of Civic Voice. This pass is transferable and can be given to friends or family if you are already a member of the National Trust.

AXIOM HOUSING ASSOCIATION: COTTESMORE CLOSE



Photo: Alan Bennett/Media Imaging Solutions

The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Hugh Duberly CBE, formally opened the new offices of Axiom Housing Association in the former Officers' mess building at Cottesmore Close on 13th June. He was presented with a copy of the Civic Society's DVD of the history of RAF Peterborough (Westwood airfield) by Angela Robinson (Communication Manager). Also in the picture is David Fowler (Chair of Axiom).

Your Civic Society was able to put Axiom in touch with Keith West who produced the RAF Peterborough DVD for us and lend a good selection of Keith's photographs of Westwood during WW2 to Axiom to make a display now housed in their reception. The Society now has a further small supply of the DVD's for sale at £10 each to members (contact Peter Lee).

* * * * *

THE BUILDINGS OF ENGLAND
BEDFORDSHIRE, HUNTINGDONSHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

CHARLES O'BRIEN is joint editor of the *Pevsner Architectural Guides*. His previous volumes for the series include *London 5: East* and *Hampshire: North*.

Available September
 800 pp. 120 colour + 80 b/w illus.
 HB ISBN 978-0-300-20821-4
 £35.00

PEVSNER ARCHITECTURAL GUIDES: **THE BUILDINGS OF ENGLAND**

BEDFORDSHIRE, HUNTINGDONSHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

Charles O'Brien and Nikolaus Pevsner

Bedfordshire is one of the smallest English counties but encompasses great variety in landscape and architecture. Its major monument is Woburn Abbey, one of the finest Georgian country houses in England, and the influence of the estate is widely felt in the model housing and schools in the county's villages. Its many other attractions range from the churches of the market towns of Bedford, Leighton Buzzard and Ampthill

to the majestic gardens at Wrest Park. Such variety is also to be found in Huntingdonshire and Peterborough, famous not only for the cathedral and the spires of the stone medieval parish churches scattered across its remote and intimate landscape but also for vast and stately Burghley House and Vanbrugh's Kimbolton Castle. This a fully revised edition of Pevsner's original guide of 1968 and contains separate introductions, gazetteers and photographs for Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough.

ORDER FORM To receive this title on publication in September, send this form to: Y1354
 Yale University Press, 'Direct Mail Department', 47 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP Tel: 020 7079 4900 e-mail: sales@yaleup.co.uk

OR ORDER ON-LINE @ www.yalebooks.co.uk

Please send me copies of:
Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough
 HB ISBN 978-0-300-20821-4 at **£35.00**

Subtotal
 Delivery: **FREE in the UK**
 Delivery (outside UK*)
 Total order amount

YaleBooks
www.yalebooks.co.uk

Send to (please print): Name.....
 Address.....
 Payment method: Cheque enclosed (payable to Yale University Press)
 Visa American Express Mastercard
 Please supply the billing address of your credit card if different from the address above.
 Credit card no.
 Expiry date Start date Security code
 Signature.....

*Delivery: Add the following to your order to cover delivery if outside UK:
 EUROPEAN customers (EU & non-EU) add £5.35 surface mail; £12.75 airmail
 ALL OTHER COUNTRIES add £7.75 surface mail; £14.95 airmail
 Tick here if you wish to receive notifications from Yale about related books