



Chairman's Message

There's always a difficult balance to be struck in working for a society like ours between being critical and being constructive. We have to point out problems and suggest solutions – and be ready to roll our sleeves up for a job of work when necessary. We only gain the kind of public respect which makes people listen to us by getting that balance right – relentless and negative Nimbyism can be as damaging as being seen to defer to the powers that be. Once we gain that public respect we can draw on it to make connections, to go out into the City and talk to the people who make the decisions that will determine the future of Norwich. I have been struck in recent months by how useful we can be in this way. For example, as the result of a conversation at a reception, we have been able to suggest successfully to the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service that they dig out the replica brasses stored in the Bridewell Museum and return them to St Peter Hungate, where once again they will give Norwich school children some real hands-on experience of History. We have also helped the Norwich Preservation Trust in its work on two vital restoration jobs. I mentioned our purchase of that remarkable ancient monument, Gybson's Conduit, for the Trust in our last Newsletter. More recently, while talking to the Asset Management department at City Hall, we were able to discover that Ninham's Court, one of Norwich's finest and least-known ancient houses (it's not even in Pevsner!), was available for the Trust's consideration. We have also been able to find some money

from our recent legacies to complete the funding necessary to restore and display a very fine Victorian floor mosaic of the City's coat of arms in the entrance hall of the Guildhall, at present hidden under carpet. Caley's and our friends at Norwich HEART were looking for a third donor, we were able to oblige, and the work should start early in the New Year. Then there's the other side



of the coin. When something is wrong we have a public duty to speak out. We criticised the sad state of many of our best monuments and public places in the early autumn, particularly the Castle Mound, the Memorial Gardens, the eastern end of the Guildhall and Chapelfield Gardens. While recognising the

City Council's considerable financial problems, and praising the fact that they are beginning to turn them around, we felt the effect of such public dilapidation on Norwich's tourist industry and prospects for inward investment, and the fact that they arise from the long term failure of successive council administrations to ringfence a proportion of income for repairs and maintenance of historic properties, meant we had to go public.

Alec Hartley

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Lady Julian Bridge

Tom Birt took this dramatic picture of the Lady Julian Bridge under construction. Work on the foot and cycle bridge began in January 2009 and finished in August. The £2.5 million bridge which links the Riverside with the St Anne's Wharf site in King Street was funded by EEDA, the developer City Living and the Riverside Scheme and the Greater Norwich Development Partnership. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Evelyn Collishaw, unveiled a plaque (left) on the 15th September. Concerns about the evening economy and its potential impact on residents are currently being studied by the Strategic Planning and Transport Committee.



Membership

A new Membership Development Working Group has been set up *to increase and sustain membership.*

You could help double our membership with a simple formula:

... ENROL A FRIEND ...

- Look through your address book and identify a friend who would be interested in supporting our activities or who would enjoy our cultural and social events.
- Please give the enclosed Membership Form to a friend or colleague - talk to them about the work of the Society and invite them to a lecture or event. E-mail a friend with the NS website address www.thenorwichsociety.co.uk

OR

Give a gift membership this Christmas (details from the NS Office: Tel 01603 765606 or admin@thenorwichsociety.co.uk)

We will be reporting on our progress in the Newsletters.

Editorial from the NEN

October 30, 2009

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Evening News

There's little doubt that appearances do count

There is no escaping it – appearances matter. And how a city looks can have a massive impact on the people who live and work there.

Norwich is a fine city and boasts some outstanding and historical architecture, which brings tourists and money into our economy.

But it also has some awful blots on its landscape — the dilapidated Westlegate Tower springs to mind.

Once built, people in Norwich have to live alongside these eyesores for sometimes decades before they are replaced.

The Norwich Society works tirelessly to scrutinise planning applications, fights to preserve the city's historic buildings while battling to ensure any new ones match up to the very highest of standards.

Its design awards are an important way of encouraging builders and architects to strive for the very best.

Cinema City in particular has been praised for the way it was brought into the 21st century in a sympathetic way.

Turning a listed building into a vibrant, pleasant and functional space is no easy feat, but it has been successfully achieved in this landmark project.

Like any city, Norwich wants to attract investment and eye-catching and inspiring architecture speaks volumes about its aspirations.

Congratulations to all of the award winners and those which received commendations for their valuable contribution to the fabric of our city.

Norwich Society Design A



The new Sir Bernard Feilden Award for Conservation Architecture created by Do Philips and cast by John Hardy.

The Norwich Society introduced a new award for conservation architecture in memory of Sir Bernard Feilden (1919-2008) which was given this year to Cinema City. Lady Feilden presented the award which is a model of one of the Assyrian lions from outside City Hall made by Norwich sculptor Do Philips. Marcus Binney CBE, the architectural Correspondent for *The Times* and the president of SAVE Britain's Heritage gave the address on *The Battle for Britain's Historic Towns.*



All photographs by Tom Birt of the Planning Appraisal Committee



The list of nominated buildings in their categories

*** denotes Award * denotes Commendation*

Residential, individual dwellings (above)

20a Albermarle Road (Charles Emberson)**

14 Harvey Lane (Art-Tech, Phil Baldry)**

The Lodge, Eaton Chase (Crispin Lambert)**

Non-Residential (left)

The Theatre Royal, Theatre Street
(Foster Wilson Architects)**

INTO teaching wing at UEA (LSI Lambert Scott Innes)**

Lakenham Primary School, City Road
(AEDAS Shrewsbury)*

Tesco Stores, Westlegate (MBH Architects)*

Aldi Stores, Plumstead Road
(Harris Partnership)*

Urban Landscaping, St George's Street
(Lara Hall and Mary McHugh, Norwich City Council)*

Highway Design (Adrian Evans, Norwich City Council)*

Residential: Communal or Group Dwellings (right)

INTO, residential wings at UEA (LSI Architects LLP)**

Orbit Flats, Union Street (MEPK Architects)*

NU Centrale, 1-58 Maidstone Road, Rose Lane, flats
(Anthony Hudson, Hudson Architects)*

Housing, phase 1, Shibley's Court, Fisher's Lane
(Hector Gibb)*



Cinema City: Winner of the Sir Bernard Feilden Award for Conservation Architecture. Frank Tucker and Mary Ash taking a quiet moment in a busy day during the assessment process.



Restoration of, or alteration to Historic Buildings
(Above)

Cinema City, St Andrews Street (Burrell Foley Fischer) **

Norwich University College of the Arts, Duke Street
(Cowper Griffith) **

St George's Church, (Gibbs, Bonner, Minns)*



Forthcoming Events Booking Form Enclosed

2009

Wednesday 9 December 6pm-8pm Society Christmas Party Drinks and canapés

The King of Hearts, Fye Bridge
Members: £12.50 Guests: £16.00

2010

Wednesday 20 January 12.45 pm City College Lunch

Ipswich Road, Norwich
3-course lunch at the Debut Restaurant
Talk by Malcolm Crowder OBE FRICS IHBC
on the work of the Norwich
Preservation Trust
Members: £15.00 Guests £17.50

Extra

Wednesday 10 February 2pm St Peter Mancroft and Tea Guided

Guided tour by Jan King of St Peter
Mancroft, including areas usually
closed to the public, followed by tea
in the Octagon
Members: £6.00 Guests: £8.00

Wednesday 17 February 10.30am The Norwich School of Painters

Illustrated talk by Charlotte Crawley,
Director of the East Anglia Art Fund
Music Room, The Assembly House,
Norwich
Coffee interval (not included) 11 am.
No booking necessary.
Non-members and Guests £2.50
at the door.

Wednesday 17 March 10.30am

Norwich: the Changing City
Music Room, The Assembly House,
Norwich
Talk by Neil Storey, historian and
author, illustrated with scenes from glass
plates and diverse esoteric sources.
Coffee interval (not included) 11.00am.
No booking necessary.
Non-members and Guests £2.50
at the door.

Wednesday 21 April 7.30pm Annual General Meeting

Music Room, The Assembly House,
Norwich
Speaker: Professor Edward Acton, Vice
Chancellor of the UEA
Members only. No booking necessary.

WINTER LECTURES. Because a number of people have told me that they prefer not to come out on winter evenings, we are offering two morning lectures in February and March of 2010. The two lectures are The Norwich School of Painters on Wednesday 17 February and Norwich: the Changing City on Wednesday 17 March. Both start at 10..30am and will have a coffee break at 11.00am in the hall of the Assembly House. Whether we continue will very much depend on numbers and your reactions. Please do let me know your views. VM

Come Aboard

The Norwich Society has been steadily increasing the number of its activities and projects. We can sustain our current commitments and take on new and exciting endeavours with your help. Joining in is the best way to take ownership of your Society and to make it work for all of us. To keep our committees vibrant we are always looking for qualified and experienced people in areas of building conservation, history, architecture, and planning. Business, legal and administration skills are also sought after.

Now that we have established separate Working Groups for Publications and Membership Development we currently need specific occasional help with:

- Journalism for newsletters, publications, reports and website articles
- Photography (digital) of our own events for the website and the newsletters
- Design for print, exhibitions and PowerPoint presentations
- Public speaking - giving short, authorised talks about the Society
- Secretarial/Administrative skills for Minute taking and for helping to organise one-off projects and events for the four working committees.

If you have experience and would like to help, please contact the Administrator 01603 765606, admin@thenorwichsociety.org.uk

Now and Again Teas

Tam Woolsey-Brown hosts quarterly teas – the third Wednesday of the third Month at 3.00pm – at her home near Bracondale. She and Margaret Jacob began these convivial social events as an experiment to see how people would like them. The answer is that they are very successful. Tam shares the pleasure of her extensive collection of china – cups saucers and tea plates of a whole variety of delightful period designs – and also shares her considerable baking skills. This is old-fashioned tea-time. You are guaranteed a wonderful array of biscuits and cakes. The chat ranges around many civic issues and Society events – a chance to give your views and hear about what is coming up next, and also to volunteer for a variety of one-off tasks such as stewarding, leaflet drops and envelope stuffing. The Now and Again Group is very much a self-motivating self-administrating group, supplying help and skills as and when needed. For new members it is also a direct way to meet people in the Society and to get involved. For all members, new and long-standing, these teas are a great way to stay in touch and meet up with friends.

The next tea is on

Wednesday 16 December at 3.00pm.

If you would like to attend, please contact
Tam Woolsey-Brown at 01603 617301

Lifts may be arranged

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Publications Working Group: Kate Anetts, Penny Clarke, V. Manthorpe, Rob Sampson, Roger Tubby.

The Executive Committee of the Norwich Society welcomes items submitted to this Newsletter but does not hold itself responsible for the views expressed.