

Newsletter 117

THE NORWICH SOCIETY

JULY 2008

Administrator's message

As many of you will have heard, our new Chairman Tim Townshend was taken seriously ill in June. At the time of going to press he is out of danger and making good progress. The Vice Chairman, Alec Hartley, has temporarily taken over his duties and several senior members of the Society have offered their help and advice.

Roger Rowe was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Roger has long been a leading figure with the Norfolk and Norwich Festival formerly as a Director, and now

as a Trustee. We offer him our congratulations and best wishes for many more years of service to our City. Roger's contribution to the cultural life of the City was also recognized by a Civic Award from the *Norwich Evening News*. He had been nominated by the Executive Committee of the Norwich Society.

The Society has received a legacy of £40,000 from the estate of Paul Ernest Hardy for which we are most grateful. Mr Hardy left no particular instructions for its use.

Local Listing Volunteers

Steering Group: Mary Ash, Clare Currie, Vicky Manthorpe, Jane Newick.

Thursday May 22nd saw the first meeting of the Local listing. Twenty-six members plus the Chairman and Vice Chairman attended.

The Administrator gave a PowerPoint introduction to the place of Local Listing within City conservation. Local Listing has no legal weight but it does identify significant buildings in advance of planning applications, and empowers owners to carry out sympathetic alterations and repairs should they be required. There are seventeen designated Conservation areas in the City; our objective is to survey all the other areas of the City within the Outer Ring Road. Using the City's scoring scheme, the group explored the kind of buildings that would be worth rating and how they achieved their scores.

The Steering Group had planned a trial survey giving everyone a chance to experiment and comment. Clare Currie had prepared maps of the Lakenham area and divided it into ten sections. Teams of two are undertaking the work in their own time and will reconvene for discussion and criticism before embarking on the next stage. Jane Newick is designing the database on which the finished information will be stored. Anyone wishing to join the Local Listing Volunteers please contact the Administrator: admin@thenorwichsociety.co.uk or 01603 765606.

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The Trafford Arms - possible candidate for local listing ?

ELIZABETHAN QUIZ

We are again running a quiz throughout August in partnership with the *Norwich Evening News* but this year we have a change in format. As this is the 450th Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth I's accession to the throne, Good Queen Bess (who visited Norwich itself in August 1578) will be the theme of our questions in a trail that leads from the Forum to the Cathedral.

We are working in partnership with a number of organisations. Particular thanks must go to our sponsors: Jarrold's, Adlard's, Clydesdale Bank and Cinema City who are offering us superb prizes and helping run a range of activities over the summer. With the additional help of the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library and Blue Badge Guides these encompass a range of events for all of the family including: talks, tours, a children's day, a themed meal and even a film (see enclosed sheet for details). Finally the Maddermarket Theatre are providing costumes to enliven our publicity.

The quiz will be printed in the *Norwich Evening News* with additional details being held in venues around the City and on our Website. We do hope you enjoy taking part.

Corporate Membership

Our Corporate Breakfasts in historic settings with specialist guides have made a big hit. They are well-attended and convivial affairs with plenty of opportunity for networking. By the time you read this, we will have completed our fourth such event – this last one at the Castle Museum with Charlotte Crawley of EAAF presenting The People’s Picture Choice, and the Lord Mayor in attendance. We are delighted by the help and support we gain from working with local businesses. For details and pictures, see the Corporate Page on our Website.



Corporate members of the Norwich Society meeting in the Marble Hall of the Norwich Union building where Rod Spokes described the design by Edward Skipper and how it came to be built. The group also visited the newly-restored Edwardian boardroom, and the new Atrium designed by LSI Architects.

Web Development Committee

Since our Website was relaunched, it has become the primary means of keeping members up to date with current Norwich Society activity. The most popular page is the NEWS, which reports on the Society’s response to planning and other Civic issues. The site is also used extensively to provide information of forthcoming events for both corporate and personal members. Please keep an eye on this to check availability. We have recently introduced a facility for members to register online for email news on a regular basis. www.thenorwichsociety.co.uk

Book Reviews

The Editorial team has been pleased to receive a number of books for review.

Our tour of Ipswich in 2007 may lend special interest to *Ipswich - Street by Street* (Breedon Books £14.99), a new book by Carol Twinch. It examines the origins and history of its ancient thoroughfares. The text is illustrated with 150 photographs, historical and modern, and brings the transformation of the Waterfront up to date.

Boswell’s Norwich by Patrick Boswell (Frontier Publishing £24.00) is a predominantly visual record of the City, from a personal perspective. Patrick Boswell has painted 80 pictures of Norwich, many of them exploring the hidden life of the City and more intimate views. His diary notes his experiences as a street painter in the manner of the Impressionists.

The Guide to Norfolk Churches by DP Mortlock and CV Roberts (Lutterworth Press £25.00) purports to be a guide to “every living medieval church in the county” and has been written by enthusiasts. With such a vast range of material to cover, the reader cannot expect an in-depth analysis of each site. What is provided is a sound, basic review of each church complete with its highlights. Appendices include a glossary of terms and a summary of saints and their distinctive emblems.

Larks Press has recently republished *Nall’s Glossary of East Anglian Dialect* (1866) by John Greaves Nall (£12.50). Who would have thought that *spanle* means to spit out with force, a *cob* was a seagull or a young herring, and a *hoglin* was an apple turnover. This is a handy reference volume for anyone interested in regional language, or wanting to write about historical aspects of East Anglia. Derivations attest to trade and immigration.

Carol Twinch has also written two books on St Walstan, East Anglia’s Patron Saint of Agriculture. *In Search of St Walstan* (Media Associates £9.95) sets out to discover evidence for a legend that began in Anglo-Saxon England and still attracts pilgrims to its shrine at Bawburgh. *Saint with the Silver Shoes* (Media Associates £8.50) follows up with many more details on the thousand-year history of St Walstan and the relevance and influence of the story in modern times. Books can be obtained through local bookshops including Jarrold the Store.

Planning Appraisal Committee News

Since the AGM, there have been changes in the makeup of the committee. Jeremy Taylor has stood down after making a valuable architectural contribution over the last ten years, Tim Townshend has moved to higher things, which means that his astute legal observations will certainly be missed and Cecile Tuddenham has left after twelve stalwart years during which time she has made a specific contribution to the protection of trees within proposed developments. A warm thank you to them and also to Richard Cocke for all his work as Chairman over the last three years.

We have recently welcomed in two architects, David Ford and Clare Currie, as well as Mary Ash, who has bravely taken on the newly-created role of secretary. Continuing

to soldier on are Roger Last (Vice Chairman), Margaret Beezhold, Jane Pratt, Tym Hattersley and Tom Birt, who photographs the sites we discuss. A big thank you to all who give their valuable time in enabling the Society to provide an informed view to both the City Council and the public at large regarding new developments in Norwich.

This year we will be dealing with a number of important applications. The scheme to demolish City College for a total redevelopment has already been tabled, as has the redevelopment of Anglia Square and St Mary's House, although these are being reviewed before detailed applications are made. The Hall Road site of the former Bally Shoe Company is with the City Council in an outline application. Other schemes, mainly

on the river frontage, are at a pre-application stage including Duke's Wharf (the former Eastern Electricity site) and St Anne's Wharf which is now under new ownership. Further applications are expected for the Barrack Street/ Jarrold's St James site regarding the remaining two office blocks, the residential blocks fronting Barrack Street and a new river crossing. This leaves a hotel and another commercial project on this site still to be considered. There are, of course, a number of other anticipated schemes in the pipeline all of which will provide a very full and interesting year of work ahead for your Committee.

*Frank Tucker Chairman
Planning Appraisal Committee*

Strategic Planning and Transport Committee

Since our last report in the Annual Review, the Committee has moved on from urgent reactions to major planning consultations (eg The Northern City Centre Area Action Plan, NCCAAP, and the Joint Core Strategy, JCS) to more detailed matters arising from them and longer term issues.

Follow-ups include the proposed St Augustine's Gyrotory System, part of the ground-clearing before the new Anglia Square development. We went to a meeting of the St Augustine's Community Together Residents' Association (SACTRA) – "lively" would be a good description – where County Council traffic planners demonstrated how little they had been talking to the City Council.

We came away even more convinced that there will never be a solution to the area's traffic problems without major road realignments outside the NCCAAP area, linking Aylsham Road directly to Barn Road via a new bridge over the Wensum. Our Deputy Chairman, Barry Howell has written a very succinct response to the planners.

The Committee (in conjunction with members of the PAC) also held a very useful and informative special meeting with Graham Nelson, the new

Head of Planning and Regeneration at City Hall. It was held under Chatham House Rules (reportable but with no attributions), and I think it is fair to say that both sides found the session illuminating and useful.

One initiative that emerged from that meeting will be an examination of the need for, and possible shape of, a City-wide policy towards tall buildings. We intend to produce a working paper partly on best practice elsewhere (for instance in the City of London) in the near future.

During May, Frank Tucker, Chairman of the PAC, and I were also invited to a focus group discussion with other stakeholder groups as part

of the Audit Commission's Inspection of the Norwich City Council Planning Department. The Inspectors' Report will be published in July. Also in July, consultation begins on the preferred option of the Boundary Commission for local government reorganisation in Norfolk. Unitary Authorities and all that.

There's no rest for the wicked...

*Alec Hartley Chairman
Strategic Planning and Transport Committee*

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Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 5 August 2.00pm

On Campus: Tour of UEA with Tea

Joseph Saunders, Estates Director at UEA will guide a walk around the buildings of special architectural interest. Tea at the Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts.

Tickets from the Society Office £10.00 per member.

Guests £13.00. Numbers limited.

Sunday 10 August 2.30pm

The Assembly House, Norwich

Existing Members Tour of the Assembly House with Tea

Tour by Jan King, recent Chairman of the NS.

Followed by Tea in the Ivory Room

Tickets from the Society Office at £6.00 per member. No guests.

Numbers limited.

Heritage Open Days

September 11,12,13,14

The NS is offering two walks:

Beating the Bounds: the Georgian Parish Boundary Markers

Friday September 12 at 2.00pm, and

Saturday September 13 at 6.00pm

David A Berwick

Along the River: the Flow of History

Saturday 13 September at 6.30pm

Jan King

All booking through Heritage Open Days

Thursday 18h September 9.30 pm - 4.45pm

South of the Border: Beccles and Geldeston Hall

A morning walking tour with the Beccles Society.

Lunch at will, followed by a visit to Geldeston Hall with Tea.

Tickets from the Society Office at £27.00 per member. Guests £32.00 each.

Sunday 21 September 2.30pm

The Assembly House, Norwich

New Members Tour of the Assembly House and Tea

Tour by Jan King, recent Chairman of the NS.

Followed by Tea in the Ivory Room.

Priority for New members (2006/2007/2008)

Tickets from the Society Office at £6.00 per member. No guests.

Sunday 5 October 2.30pm

The Assembly House, Norwich

New Members Tour of the Assembly House and Tea

Tour by Jan King, recent Chairman of the NS.

Followed by Tea in the Ivory Room.

Priority for New members (2006/2007/2008)

Tickets from the Society Office at £6.00 per member. No guests.

Sunday 12 October 9.30am

Magdalen Street Walk

Walk with Rod Spokes

Coffee at 11.00am

Tickets from the Society Office at £6.00 per member. Guests £8.00.

Tuesday 21 October 7.30pm

Music Room, The Assembly House

Behind the Scenes at the Norfolk & Norwich Festival

A talk by the Director, Jonathan Holloway
No booking necessary. Guests £2.00 on the door.

Tuesday 25th November 7.30pm

Music Room, The Assembly House

Japan in Close

A talk by Dr Simon Kaner, Assistant Director of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Art and Culture.

No booking necessary. Guests £2.00 on the door.

Thursday

11 December 7.00pm

Noverre Room, The Assembly House

Christmas Party

Tickets from the Society Office at £16.00 per member. Guests £20.00.

Date for your Diary

Wednesday 14 January 2009

Lunch at the Début Restaurant, City College

Order form in November Newsletter.

Volunteering

If you are interested in committee or publications work, please do contact the Administrator at the Norwich Society office. You can also help in small ways, such as stewarding, cake baking and envelope stuffing, through the Now and Again Group run by Margaret Jacob and Tam Woolsey-Brown who have recently written to all their members; if you haven't heard from them and would like to be involved do contact the Administrator at the NS Office or check out the Website: www.thenorwichsociety.co.uk.

Christmas Party



This year the Christmas Party is on Thursday December 11th in the Noverre Suite of the Assembly House because it is our 'home' and we would like it to feel like a family party with a big tree and a festive atmosphere. We will be able to accommodate more people than last year, and we will be offering a buffet fork supper, parlour games and entertainment, a Big Raffle for the Small Conservation Fund, wine and non-alcoholic fruit punch plus a pay bar. Tickets cost £16.00 per person, £20.00 for non-member guests. The booking form is enclosed.

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

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