



Narthex wins Conservation Award

At the Norwich Society Design Awards evening, held in the Music Room of the Assembly House on 4 October, Lady Feilden presented the Sir Bernard Feilden Conservation Award to the Dean of St John's Cathedral for its new Narthex. The judges commented that this building was a splendid addition to the Cathedral's public face and a skilful mix of traditional materials with modern techniques and workmanship.

Design Awards for new buildings were introduced by the Norwich Society in 2005 to recognise high-quality work in the City and encourage a rise in the standard of development. This year ten Awards were made and the selection panel commended in particular the high quality of nominations in the Commercial and Conservation categories. Certificates were presented at the ceremony by the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor Jenny Lay. Details of the successful buildings are given on page three.

Earlier in the evening Peter Studdert, former Director of Joint Planning for Cambridge's Growth Areas and Northstowe New Town, addressed the large audience on the theme, *Valuing the past—visioning the future. The challenge of managing growth and change in our historic cities.* He spoke of the privilege and challenge of planning in cities such as Cambridge and Norwich, and the importance of a creative and positive approach, so that qualities of the town centres were incorporated into new communities and dry suburbs avoided. Within the centres themselves, alongside their cultural richness and civic tradition, Dr Studdert put emphasis on human scale, social spaces, landscape penetrating the towns, and a cycle-friendly environment. And he was quick to stress that despite all the publicity Cambridge's guided bus system was now a great success.

Peter Studdert is not an advocate of pastiche exteriors and prefers town planners to have the courage of commissioning good modern designs for new projects. Using his experience at Cambridge to guide him, he supported peripheral growth in large communities with their own facilities rather than by adding small numbers of houses to existing villages. Cambridge's rapid expansion was being well managed by new developments echoing the formal layout of university colleges with green spaces and cycle routes.

Cambridgeshire Horizons, now wound up, had four key words to guide it: Community, Connectivity, Climate and Character. With these in mind, Dr Studdert's stimulating talk concluded with illustrations of new communities in this country and abroad. Mary Ash, Chairman of the Planning Appraisal Committee, proposed a vote of thanks.

David Bussey



Photograph of Lady Feilden and the Dean by David Bussey

Photograph of Narthex by Tom Birt

Our Local Heritage

For over three years members of the Norwich Society have been involved in a 'Local Listing' project, recording the City's unlisted but nevertheless important buildings. From 5-11 September the Society held an exhibition of the work and a public consultation in the Forum. It was organised by Clare Currie with photographs of the buildings by Sarah Cocke. I am grateful to the many members who helped steward the exhibition.

The draft list and data on the 122 buildings proposed for local listing were available to view in hard copy at the exhibition and are posted on our website with access from 'Top of the Agenda' on the Home Page.

The public response was enthusiastic: people were amazed at the quality of the City's many unlisted buildings which are too often taken for granted. We now have a bulging file of comments to digest during the coming months. At last some of the City's less celebrated buildings had been given due consideration and exceptional examples revealed in areas often overlooked, such as Sewell Ward.

Since the exhibition I have given a presentation on the project to the Sustainable Development Panel of the City Council. Sets of ten postcards of details of the buildings will be available to purchase at our lectures.

Vicky Manthorpe

Book Review

WOMEN AND RELIGION IN LATE MEDIEVAL NORWICH



Annunciation from
15th-century rood screen
in North Walsham,
photograph by R. Batchelor

*Carole Hill, Boydell Press for the
Royal Historical Society.
Offer details in Newsletter 123*

This book relates the lives of women saints particularly venerated in Norwich (St Anne, St Margaret of Antioch, St Mary Magdalen and St Bridget of Sweden) and shows how their lives inspired Norwich women to emulate them as far as possible by religious observance and charitable activity. Being an important trading city, Norwich was well placed to receive from the continent religious ideas, including those relating to female mysticism. Without documentary

evidence, however, we could not know how these ideas were received; luckily we possess such evidence. The Norwich women to whom it relates were by definition well off and came from influential families. Some like the widow Margaret Purdans, with a brass in St Giles' church, served the saints as vowesses; others like Katherine de Norwich, whose household accounts survive, in their normal daily lives. They undertook the seven works of mercy, activities with sacramental connotations for these pious women.

The book describes the concept of 'incarnational piety' in some detail, and will probably be more approachable to readers familiar with the works of Julian of Norwich or Margery Kempe. Readers primarily interested in reading about the charitable activities of women in medieval Norwich can do so, however, without engaging with the more esoteric aspects of this concept.

Appendices list the material evidence for the cults described (donor windows in churches, for example) and a detailed bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

Eleanor Martin

Chairman's Message

WORKING TOGETHER

Sometimes we have to take a very critical stance in the Press in order to draw attention to what we perceive are deficiencies, such as our very public concern for the future of Elm Hill. But we also do a great deal of positive work behind the scenes through committees, reports, and consultations.



Photograph by Brian Payne

In my last message I wrote that I would like us to strengthen our ties of cooperation with other groups in Norwich who have similar aims and objectives to our own and that we intended to work with the City Council on a solution to the enormous liability they have to address concerning the future maintenance of the listed buildings they own within the City.

Over the recent issue concerning the future of The Britons Arms it was a pleasure to work with the Norwich Preservation Trust and The Norwich Historic Churches Trust in an effort to persuade the City Council not to auction off the building into private ownership. I am delighted that The Norwich Preservation Trust will now take charge of its conservation.

However, it is by our public face that we are known and we must continue to have the courage to express our views in a constructive manner so that the respected reputation which has been earned for the Society by its past members is sustained. This year many of you have contributed directly and visibly to that reputation through the generous contribution of time and skills—in particular on the City Walls, the Local Listing project and the enormously successful 2011 Design Awards. A big 'thank you' to you all.

Peter Bentley

Mariele Neudecker wins first Sculpture for Norwich Commission

During Norwich Heritage Week (5-11 September), SfN staged an exhibition in the Forum which included proposals by the four sculptors short-listed for the *Norwich School of Artists* commission. The event enabled the SfN trustees to meet many members of the public who were unaware of our existence. Almost everyone supported our expressed aims, but there were mixed reactions to the maquettes of the proposed works. On 5 October the 14-member selection panel held six hours of discussions and artists' presentations during which public comments, written and oral, were considered. The panel selected as winner Mariele Neudecker, born in Düsseldorf, living in Bristol, and with a world-wide reputation as an artist. Her website is: www.marieleneudecker.co.uk

The panel agreed that Mariele's vision was the most inspiring. At the heart of her proposal is a real understanding of the work of the Norwich School of Artists and their place in the history of 19th-century landscape painting. She also wishes to make something transparent, reflective, interactive and beautiful. It is with this concept, not her original 'glass pavilion', that we wish to work towards a new proposal.

The next step is for SfN to form a steering committee to take the project forward with the artist, and to represent the interests and concerns of everyone involved. Our aim will be, in the words of the brief given to the artists, that 'the artwork should achieve "ownership" within the local community'. Derek Morris, our trustee in charge of commissioning, has expressed the desire that we 'achieve a work that will resonate into the future and be that elusive thing—an exceptional example of public art'.

Keith Pollard, Chairman SfN



Photograph by Tim Coleman

2011 Norwich Society Design Award Winners and Judges' Comments



Photographs by Tom Birt

See page 1 for picture of
**The Narthex,
St John's Cathedral**

*Owner The Cathedral of
St John the Baptist,
Contractor John Youngs Ltd,
Russell Taylor Architects*



3 St James' Court, Whitefriars (top row left)

*Owner Jarrolds/Barclays, Contractor R G Carter,
Architect Aukett Fitzroy Robinson*

'The design, appropriate scale and carefully selected external materials ensure a quality building that fits well into its location.... The covered entrance leads into an exciting full-height lobby and the glazed facades offer wonderful views of the cathedral area.'

The Bridewell Museum, Bridewell Alley (top row centre)

*Owner Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service,
Contractor Draper and Nicholls Ltd,
Architect Lucas Hickman Smith*

'The total building has been refurbished to a high standard.... the internal spaces...now flood with light....Altogether a great opportunity realised.'

Marks & Spencer, Rampant Horse Street (top row right)

*Owner Marks & Spencer,
Contractor EllmerTry Joint Venture, Architect Benoy*

'An imaginative and bold addition to the city-centre scene....It transforms an unpleasant jumble of elevations into a cohesive, well-scaled shape adjacent to St Stephen's Church.'

Scholars' Quarter Phase 1, Rosary Road (row 2 left)

Owner, Contractor, Architect Hopkins Homes

'The mix of heights, building size and type, and roofscapes gives a lively feel to the development; materials are well detailed using a limited palette with good-quality brick throughout.'

The Open Academy, Salhouse Road, Heartsease (row 2 centre)

*Owner The Open Academy,
Contractor Kier Eastern Ltd, Architect Sheppard Robson*

'This imaginative and inspiring building brings real architectural quality and excitement to the learning environment.'

Northumberland Park, Northumberland Street (row 2 right)

*Owners Cotman Housing and Private, Contractor Ingram
Housing, Architect A Squared Architects Ltd*

'A bold attempt to revitalise a forgotten location on the city edge and to put a redundant building to a new, much-needed use.'

Garden Room, Heigham Grove (row 3 left)

*Owner Caroline Chivers,
Contractor Colin Read and Sons, Architect David Marris*

'This is a sensitive, modern, well-executed design and a worthy addition to a splendid Georgian house.'

Gybson's Conduit, Westwick Street (row 3 centre)

*Owner Norwich Preservation Trust,
Contractor Universal Stone, Architect Purcell Miller Tritton*

'A gem of restoration, carefully and sensitively carried out, which has brought an important piece of Norwich history back to life.'

**Media Centre, Norwich University College of the Arts
(row 3 right)**

*Owner NUCA,
Contractor T Gill and Sons (Norwich) Ltd, Hudson Architects*

'The greatest change is the clever addition of a new floor at eaves level just above the eyebrow windows....This is a brilliant example of the remodelling of an existing building.'

Forthcoming Events Booking Form Enclosed

Wednesday 7 December 6-8pm

Society Christmas Party

The Great Hospital, Norwich
The Master of the Great Hospital,
Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt,
welcomes us to the Birkbeck Hall
for drinks and canapés and will give
a talk on the building's history.
Guided tours.
Members £15. Guests £18.

2012

**Wednesday 18 January
12 for 12.30pm - 3pm**

Norwich Society Winter Lunch

City College, Ipswich Road
Three-course lunch at the Début
Restaurant with a film about the
Wensum River in Norwich by the
Environment Committee.
Members £18. Guests £21.

Wednesday 15 February 10.30am

Society Morning

Third Wednesday Lecture

Music Room, Assembly House, Norwich
**Kett's Rebellion in Norwich:
Causes, Course and Consequences**
Professor Andy Wood of the UEA
Coffee available from 10am.
No booking necessary.
Guests £3 at the door.

Wednesday 22 February 10.15am

The Hostry, Norwich Cathedral

Architecture:

Colour, Form and Structure

Jeremy Taylor, former Chairman of the
Norwich Society, will give a commentary
on his exhibition of paintings in the
Histry.
Followed by coffee in the Refectory.
Numbers limited to 16.
Members only £5.

Wednesday 21 March 10.30am

Society Morning

Third Wednesday Lecture

Music Room, Assembly House, Norwich
Norwich's Civic Portraits
A talk by Giorgia Bottinelli, Curator of
Art, Norwich Castle Museum and Art
Gallery.
Coffee available from 10am.
No booking necessary.
Guests £3 at the door.

Friday 30 March 10.15am

Carrow Abbey

A rare chance to visit the Unilever
Conference Centre on the old Colman
site with a commentary by Rod Spokes.
Members only £6 .

**The 2012 AGM is on Tuesday 17 April
at 7.30pm in the Assembly House.**

Civic Voice Annual General Meeting

The Civic Voice Annual General Meeting in Sheffield (14-15 October), which I attended as the Norwich Society representative, drew more than 200 delegates from 290 member societies all round the country: it has a turnover of almost £250,000, to which the Society contributes £500. Is it worth the money?

On the simplest level, Civic Voice's value as an information source is high. Links from its website lead to Government documents and independent experts in all our areas of interest. It also offers connections with many bodies giving free support and advice.

In its first full year Civic Voice has taken over national co-ordination of Heritage Open Days, in partnership with the Heritage Alliance and the National Trust. It has organised tailored charity insurance for member bodies—an offer which the Norwich Society is taking up—and offers free passes to both National Trust and English Heritage properties for members of constituent societies. Details and downloadable vouchers from: www.civicvoice.org.uk/englishheritagepassoffer
www.civicvoice.org.uk/nationaltrustcivicvoiceoffer

As far as its national role goes, the Trustees' Report (www.civicvoice.org.uk) gives long lists of ministers met, MPs' briefings and so on, mainly relating to the Localism Bill and its companion document, the National Planning Policy Framework. Three major changes in the Localism Bill, including ensuring respect for conservation areas and the setting of listed buildings, were a direct result of Civic Voice lobbying.

The Sheffield AGM saw the launch of Civic Voice's Fair Planning Campaign. Consultation on the National Framework has just finished, but Civic Voice's Director Tony Burton pointed out the next important stage, drafting of new planning policy. During that time MPs' pressure to change the original document can be very effective, and civic society members are urged to write to their local Member of Parliament on this issue.

Civic Voice's call to action, along with a suggested draft letter, is on www.civicvoice.org.uk/ fairplanning. In a recorded message to the AGM the president, Griff Rhys-Jones, said that its collective voice should be 'loud, coherent and representative'. Every member of the Norwich Society now has a chance to become part of that campaign. Is it worth being a member of Civic Voice? I think so. I hope you do too.

Alec Hartley

Noticeboard

The next Now and Again Group Tea (and cake) will be at the home of Mrs Tam Woolsey-Brown on **Wednesday 14 December at 3pm**. New members always welcome.

Society Patron

For the first time in its nearly 90-year history the Norwich Society has appointed a Patron. The Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk Richard Jewson has very kindly accepted the invitation of the Norwich Society's Trustees to fill the role, which will be formal and advisory only.

Richard Jewson's main career was in the timber and building industry and he developed a lifelong interest in architecture and construction. He believes that a healthy society and economy require a high standard of built environment as well as a vigorous arts culture. Having lived and worked in and around Norwich all his life, he fully recognises the importance of the work the Norwich Society undertakes.

John Ogden

John Ogden, who died recently, was in his nineties. He was a Londoner by birth and after a long and happy life in Norwich, where he worked for Harmers Clothing Company, died in London where he had moved to be near his son William. John loved Norwich and was an enormous help to his wife Jean during her years as Secretary of the Norwich Society. The Society owes much to them both.

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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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