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How to get it right

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Spring 2017

Inspiration from Yorkshire

Rowntree's approach

20's Plenty for Us

A better place to be

David Whitehead

More pertinent comments

Hereford Now

ASDA Service Station

Study Outing

Saturday 15th July 2017

Woodchester Mansion and more

An unfinished, Gothic revival mansion house (1850) in Woodchester Park near Nympsfield in Woodchester, Gloucestershire, built for Edward Leigh and his wife Caroline (daughter of "Garnons" Sir John Geers Cotterell). See parish church, which formed part of Leigh's project and were completed. Time to visit Newark Park (bring NT membership - not included in price). On our return we'll visit what we are now creating - new homes for the 21st century.

Lunch - bring your own or enjoy lunch break at a pub en route. Coach departs Merton Meadow car park at 9.00am. Return 6.30pm.

Early booking essential as there are limited places. £20 inc. morning coffee and entrance to Woodchester. (Complimentary visit to Newark Park for Civic Voice members - register first)

Contact: David Fowler 01981 541058 david693fowler@btinternet.com



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PREFACE



Spring has properly arrived. The Library has reopened, (see article on page 6), the long awaited decision over a new university is positive and our

Annual Lecture was well attended. See supplement for summary.

In essence, I want us – the people of Hereford – to take a more involved part in the redevelopment of our City. Developers have their place but must work with us to create the sort of community and PLACE that we want. As well as improved consultation processes HCS is looking for the creation of an Urban Room being the PLACE where proposals can be discussed and ideas taken forward. The suggestion is that it should be a joint effort between Councils and volunteers. Watch this space for more information as our proposals and responses to them develop. Visit our pagoda in High Town on Civic Day, Saturday 10am to 4pm, 17th June 2017 to hear more. See you then, I hope. John Bothamley

P.S. See page 3 for Consultation on Hereford Area Plan and Hereford Transport Package – first impressions as we go to press.

NEWS & COMMENT

New University

At last a decision from Government, in March, with confirmation of an initial £8million of funding from the Marches LEP through the government's Growth Deal, to help fund a new university in Hereford. There has been much support for this major project which will have huge implications for the City. HCS is already talking to NMiTE about how we can all be involved in developing their aspirations. Potentially this is a life changing moment for the City, an ideal first project for the Urban Room. Our front illustration is the Moscow Business School, that also turns out graduates ready for work. (But perhaps we should have a height restriction for Hereford?)



Pubs' amendment

In March there was a historic win for pub goers, consumers and CAMRA members (who lead the campaign for change). After years of campaigning the Government has announced a change in the law to protect all English pubs in the planning system. This removes a longstanding loophole that has enabled developers to demolish pubs or convert them to

another retail use without applying for planning permission. All pubs in England will now be given the protection they deserve, and owners will always have to apply for planning permission before they can convert or demolish a pub.

Cyber Security Centre

Nearly £3m from the Local Enterprise Partnership to support the development of a new Centre for Cyber Security, in conjunction with the University of Worcester, will be located at Hereford Enterprise Zone's Skylon Park. There will be accommodation for businesses working in the cyber security sector, with potential space for up to 20 tenant businesses and secure training and educational facilities, to provide specialist cyber security training for businesses and organisations. The centre will have specially equipped laboratories which will enable users to simulate cyberattacks and test responses in a secure environment. This is really putting Skylon Park on the map. (See page 7 for latest proposal)

Statistics!

72% of Councillors in England think that the planning system works in the interests of developers over councils and local communities, according to a new survey. The survey of 1,200 ward councillors in England was carried out by think tank Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) and commissioned by the National Trust. In addition, half of those asked suggested that sites that are not in line with the local plan are being approved for housing, while the same percentage think planning departments are not adequately resourced. Jonathan Carr-West, chief executive at the LGiU, said: "The planning system is one of the fundamental pillars of local democracy, allowing communities to help shape the physical structure of the places they live. Councillors are the most important link between communities and that system"

Box Village

Leader at the City and County of Swansea Council Rob Stewart said: "The plans for a box village [using a collection of previously used shipping containers] are an exciting part of the Swansea Bay City Region's City Deal bid that would transform the regional economy, open up thousands of jobs and generate the kind of world-class

digital environment that will allow local entrepreneurs to flourish and expand. "The box village project, based on innovative examples of best practice, will allow flexible space for enterprising businesses to set up, grow and globalise. Once the components of a box village are in place, they really can look particularly striking and impressive. "This project would complement our plans to develop a digital district on Kingsway and a digital square at the St David's development site that would include digital artworks and digital projections." There is even one in Croydon so perhaps we should have one here!

Cultural Herefordshire

Herefordshire Cultural Partnership (HCP) is to be one of only 16 pilot areas for the Great Place Scheme, jointly funded over three years by Arts Council England (ACE) and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to put heritage, arts and culture at the heart of its communities. HCP's project called 'Herefordshire's a Great Place' has been awarded **£748,000**.

Through an ambitious programme of events, activities, competitions, promotion and research, local communities will be able to work with artists, arts and heritage organisations to celebrate and promote the very things that make where they live special. Working closely with tourism, education, health and wellbeing sectors, **Herefordshire's a Great Place** will demonstrate ways in which culture can play an integral role in the economic and community development of the county.

This major award is a huge boost to Herefordshire's bid to become UK City of Culture 2021. The Built Environment is classified as culture so HCS will be getting stuck in.



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RIBA

Contributors

John Bothamley – Chairman HCS, developer and chair of charitable grant making trust
James Copeland – Master planner and Architect
John Faulkner – Retired chartered civil engineer, chairman of HCS 2003-2006
Nicky Geeson - Environmental scientist and campaigner
Tony Geeson - Retired local government officer
Miriam Griffiths – Chair of the Herefordshire Museum Service Support Group
Stanley Vincent – Planning visionary
David Whitehead – Hereford historian and author
Design & Layout - Gary Nozedar
Front Cover
 Inspiration for one of Hereford's new university buildings – the Moscow Business School (Library picture)

NEWS & COMMENT

Civic Trust Awards

March saw the announcement of the 2017 Civic Trust Awards with umpteen categories and commendations. Too many to feature here but the Campus Hall Student Housing – University of Southern Denmark might inspire NMI TE. However HCS will be discussing whether we need to have a height restriction for new buildings. The Odeon is possibly quite high enough for some of us - apart from the cathedral of course.



campus hall - uni south Denmark

Heritage Open Day

We are working with Hereford Museums service to promote Heritage Open Days an annual event that this year will take place from 7th-10th September. Following a highly successful 2016 when over 30 properties across Herefordshire were opened, Hereford Civic Society are working to increase the number of buildings in the City participating in this popular event. We are looking for as broad range of properties that are, or have been, important to the life and community of Hereford. Is there a building that you would like to look around or learn about its history? Are you lucky enough to own or manage an iconic building? Would you like to volunteer some of your time helping? If you answered yes to any of these questions please send Huw Rees an email: huw@reesjenkins.com or phone 07909 232579



CONSULTATIONS

Hereford Area Plan (HAP) and Hereford Transport Package (HTP) – first impressions as we go to press.

It is easy to criticise a consultation and these two, just out on 4th April 2017, until 22nd May for responses, are no exception. HCS has long grumbled about surveys with multiple questions and those that refer to subjects beyond the knowledge of most people.

There are specific questions asking where new facilities should be sited, which is good.; but several asking if we need additional policies – generally I suggest that is a 'no', we have more than enough rules and regulations.

Surprisingly there is a suggestion that the HAP should have a policy on the land use effects of pollution. This has already been covered by the adopted Core Strategy (CS) – albeit the Minerals and Waste part has been much delayed and is long awaited. HAP, like Neighbourhood Development Plans, has to follow the rules set by the CS; it can hardly try to set a policy that is awaited from the superior plan?

Shared Space

There is an open Question at no.52: *Are there any other options we need to consider to help manage Hereford's transport problems?* YES, the full on use of 'shared space'. The Herefordshire Council has adopted the Hereford Streetscape Design Strategy for Hereford 2009 so why does it not use it? An illustration at the exhibition of women and children in prams sharing a pavement with cyclists is frightening. Refer to our reports in Autumn 2013, Winter 2014 and Spring

2014 of our magazine, all on our web site www.herefordcivicsociety.org.uk for cogent explanation of this system, that originated in the Netherlands and is now practised in this country with notable success. It is adopted policy – and this shared space philosophy has just been implemented at the top of Broad Street. Where is the joined up thinking?

Please go on line or pick up a hard copy from the library and respond. We rely on you to say yes to these questions.

9. *Should guidelines be given within the plan to support high quality design?*

33. *Could better use be made of the River Wye?*

And no one can possibly say YES to No.24. *Should the HAP identify land for further new retail development?*

Happy consulting.

First thoughts from John Bothamley

HEREFORD NOW

Belmont Service Station

Sited at an important 'gateway' to the City this construction should never have happened. The original planning consent for an ASDA store incorporated a block of flats. A Planning application for a service station succeeded after protracted negotiations, especially with the Highways Agency, who gave in, as HCS predicted, to a consent. The Design and Access Statement was flawed referencing only support from ASDA customers not the rest of the community. This is a classic case of the developer getting their own way over

something the community does not want or require; there is adequate provision already. (See Annual Lecture report in supplement).

Design wise the structure is attractively lightweight (so much so that part of the roof flew off during Storm Doris in February). The roof would look quite good if it did not have the company's initial letters on the edge. (See page 7 for more on signs and advertisements) HCS pressed for a proper hedge on the periphery, but only succeeded in getting ground cover plants. JB



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QUALITY STREET

In 1901 the chocolate maker and philanthropist Joseph Rowntree decided to create a new community just to the north of York and commissioned a 'garden village' at New Earswick. This proved to be a model not just for garden cities - the architects went on to design Letchworth and Welwyn Garden City - but for numerous private and public suburban housing developments over the next half century. Indeed, its influence can be seen in Hereford's Bulmer Garden Suburb off Barr's Court Road, now a Conservation Area.

100 years later, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation began planning another new community on the edge of York. The priorities would be for an environmentally sustainable development, a strong mixed tenure community with a high quality of life for residents and a model which others contemplating edge-of-town extensions may find useful. An over-arching priority would remain the creation of a vibrant community with a high level of involvement by its citizens in decisions that affect them all.

Land was identified at New Osbaldwick, to the east of York, mostly owned by the Foundation and the Council and which had been earmarked for housing for years. The Council sold the land to the Foundation and an extended period of community consultation, master planning and design then took place over several years, with planning permission granted for 540 homes in 2007.

Now renamed Derwenthorpe, development is almost complete, with a 40% affordable element managed by the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust. A third of the site area - about 18 acres - is given over to public open space and park areas.

The overall site is divided into roughly four quarters, divided east/west by

Sustrans cycle route 66 (a former railway line) and with a community centre, playgrounds, parkland, lakes and wildlife conservation areas at the centre of the development. All properties incorporate green features and materials to promote sustainable and affordable living, and a biomass energy centre provides low carbon heat and hot water across the site.

Visiting the site last autumn, by bicycle of course, I arrived in the central parkland and was immediately struck by two things - the openness of the site - the housing barely seems to register, such is the preponderance of planting - and the lack of parked cars on every street. The design is based around Home Zones and residents have priority over vehicles, with a variety of transport options available. Walking and cycling routes are an integral part of the scheme so that residents can make easier connections to local transport, and it is an ambition that no home will be more than 400m from a bus stop. Streets are wide and informal and without the usual concrete kerbs separating vehicles from pedestrians - most striking is the complete lack of street clutter - no endless 'don't do this, don't do that' signs or painted lines of any sort - what a joy.

Despite this, car parking seems to be



controlled and much of it is sited to the rear of the dwellings, leaving the streets as extended open space. The southern half of the site is made up of contemporary styled 2 and 3 storey housing in short, wide streets with a human scale to what is after all a very large estate. Despite a relatively high density of 28 dwellings per hectare, nothing feels cramped, accentuated by frequent views of surrounding parkland. The northern half is perhaps more traditional in layout, but none the less attractive for it and the design ethos carries through the site as a whole, with a limited palette of high quality materials both for the properties and the external works. Each resident pays an annual charge for estate management, which covers high standards of maintenance of the Energy Centre, all communal areas, parking areas, landscaping, ponds etc - this was obvious on the ground and would seem to be a way forward as Council's

continue to abandon such services. From researching this article, it is clear that the Rowntree Trust has kept a very firm hand on the delivery of this scheme, ensuring that the original ideals have been adhered to by the developers. What is surprising and encouraging is that developer David Wilson Homes acknowledge that they've learned the importance of 'placemaking' i.e. forward investing in landscaping, water features and play spaces at the start of a development (and not a begrudging add-on at the end) as it has made the job of selling so much easier for them and they say they will repeat it in future developments.

Derwenthorpe has won numerous design, housing, landscaping and civil awards and was a delight to visit - this is aspirational development and a model of excellence for the whole country - dare we hope that Hereford's Three Elms proposals can emulate it?

James Copeland

Benevolent employers of yesteryear liked to create supportive housing for their employees, often restricting life styles with no pubs and alike. Now the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has taken Rowntree's original ideas into becoming a thoughtful developer mixing social tenures and speculative housing. Most creditable is the long term commitment to on-going maintenance and maintaining high standards. These developments deserve to succeed, honed by experts who have guided the surrounding communities into understanding the complexities of new housing developments. Experts, councillors and the community working together is the only way forward, as was referred at the HCS Annual Lecture, which reminded us of the need to be open minded and to work collaboratively.SV



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KING'S ACRE TREES

Every town or city benefits from attractive features on approach roads. It is therefore deeply regrettable that on the western side of Hereford the avenue of mature lime trees along the A438, King's Acre Road, is now under unnecessary threat if a number of local planning decisions proceed in isolation from each other.

Approximately 800 yards of Kings Acre Road are lined to the north and south by a continuous avenue of 64 mature trees, most planted around 1920 in association with the local and still continuing Wyevale Nursery. Unfortunately, the whole avenue is crossed by a wide corridor reserved for the Hereford Relief Road - Western Bypass - as proposed in Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy. More definite courses for potential routes have not yet been decided, but the bypass would be part funded by housebuilding, and plans for 1200 new homes adjacent to the avenue on the Three Elms strategic urban extension have already been submitted. Three new junctions could be built on this short stretch of road if planning applications from two housing developers and for a bypass are allowed to proceed without reference to each other, as seems most likely, in a piecemeal fashion. Individual trees are certainly at risk, allowing for the necessary vehicle sight-lines; up to nine substantial trees could be cut down. An arboriculture report prepared to support the Three Elms development

identifies that many of the trees are high quality (Category A). In response Herefordshire's own adviser says that the breaks in the avenue caused by their removal will have a major impact on what is a significant local landscape feature in its own right. The internal structure and the external coherence of the lime avenue would be seriously reduced and another approach route to the city centre would be diminished for ever.

Currently none of the trees along the avenue are protected. They are clearly at risk and they do fit the criteria for tree preservation orders (TPOs). Breinton Parish Council has applied to Herefordshire Council for the trees to be listed. The northern side of the avenue is in Hereford and the City Council's support has been sought along with that of Stretton Sugwas Parish Council. The responsibility is now in Herefordshire Council's court as they have to decide how to proceed with all three applications described above, as well as the granting of any TPOs.

Nicky and Tony Geeson

AMAZING PLACES OF HEREFORD

A Requiem for the Ship Inn

There was always a danger that this slot in Place might become a series of obituaries for the lost buildings of Hereford. Brockington in Hafod Road (Place, Winter 2016/17) still stands but is seriously threatened since the Council commissioned a Conservation Report, which wrote the house out of the future for the site. Its principal limitation was that it made little contribution to the Conservation Area because of the burgeoning vegetation, taking advantage of recent neglect.



Ship Inn - Belmont

This implies that the overgrown shrubberies are a permanent element in the streetscape but a glance towards the eastern section of the site, where 'Hafod Park' is to appear, shows how efficiently a chain saw or two can radically adjust a parkland landscape into a bare development site. Four large piles of timber await transport to Pontrilas. There is now a good view of Brockington from where I write! The Council's conservation report made no mention of the intrinsic qualities of Brockington as an important representative of the Arts and Crafts style. This was apparently a step too far into the realms of taste. Michael Speak, the architectural historian who provided all the Victorian and 20th century references for Brooks' revision of the Buildings of England: Herefordshire (2012) has written to me stating unequivocally that Brockington 'would appear to be one of the most attractive houses of this period in the city' and is 'an excellent example of a small Arts and Crafts mansion of its period and should be saved'.

Edward Bettington (1866-1939) who designed Brockington brought his son Harry (1892-1940) into the family

firm and enabled Bettington & Son to make the transition in the 1930s from Arts and Crafts to the modern Movement. Harry's new aesthetic can be seen in the Franklin Barnes building (1935) in Bridge Street and the John Haider Building (1933-4) in Bath Street. Remarkably, the Arts and Crafts traditions of the partnership were still flourishing across the road at Venn's Close (1937-8). The Civic Trust/Society made at least two attempts to get the Haider Building listed; the most recent by Harry Chadwick in 1999. In general, the Civic Society seems to show less interest in the pretty revivalist products of the partnership.

If you have been queuing in the traffic at the Asda island recently you would have noticed the careful demolition of the Ship Inn. It seems that every piece of this building is being recycled with pious regard for its quality. Hand crafted bricks and tiles, fine leaded windows, excellent wood-carving around the entrance and interior fittings are all on their way to the recycling yards where people with taste and discrimination will pay good prices to re-assemble parts of the Ship Inn as new extensions to their rejuvenated

farmhouses or pretty garden gazebos with pseudo-Tudor windows. As often happens, Hereford's abused and unappreciated townscape is carried away to be someone else's exemplar of refined taste. Meanwhile Hereford degenerates into tinsel-town, besieged by relief roads and surrounded by off-the-peg estates.

The point of this rant is that the Ship Inn was designed by Harry Bettington during the great pub revival after the First World War. His RIBA biographical file shows that he designed several of Hereford's best pre-war 'road houses', including the Racehorse in Widemarsh Street (1938) and the Gamecock on Holme Lacy Road (1937). These are quality buildings in various historical style; notable again for the use of good materials. In the new inter-war suburbs of Birmingham the Arts and Crafts pubs take the place of churches as the focus for new communities. Some of the best by Charles Edward Bateman (1863-1947) are listed and remain thriving hubs.

The Ship occupied an ancient site and when it was for sale in 1802 it was also known as the Plaisterers (sic) Arms suggesting an early 17th century origin. Shoemith in the Pubs of Hereford shows a photograph of the late Georgian building in the 1920s before it was replaced by the Hereford and Tredegar Brewery in 1936. As expected the interior was beamy and nooky with multiple rooms, hand-made brick fireplaces with plenty of stained panelling with high shelves for the landlady to display her Toby jugs and

brass ornaments. I seem to remember a visit with a few diehards after a Civic Trust walk around Putson and Hinton in the 1980s. It seemed to have a good regular trade and was thriving. One cannot help thinking that drinking bottles of supermarket beer at home is a step backward for civilisation, indicating the extinction of a convivial setting where well-adjusted, free-born Englishmen (and women) could sort-out the travails of the day. David Whitehead

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20'S PLENTY FOR US



Save Lives
#SlowDown

20 MPH – make streets safer and improves public health and the economy – what's not to like? Hereford currently has a confusing situation where the inner city centre itself, and some outlying residential areas have a speed limit of 20 mph, but these areas are interspersed with higher limits. Wider area limits right out to the city's outskirts are essential if we are to improve road safety. People are seven times more likely to survive a crash at 20 mph compared to 30 mph. It is crucial to educate drivers on the many benefits of a slower, more courteous driving style that respects the rights of all transport modes to share community roads equally. Public Health England says that there is growing evidence that 20mph speed limits, and repeated national surveys, show strong public support for 20 mph in residential streets. Many towns and cities in England have either implemented or are committed to 20mph speed limits across much of their road networks.

However, there are wider benefits that are not so immediately obvious. **Lower speeds significantly reduce toxic fuel emissions and traffic noise thereby improving public health.** 20 mph limits help the public realm be a better, safer, place for more people to walk and cycle regularly. So called 'Active Travel' is about building activity into daily lives which are currently too sedentary for health and the country's economy. **People are more confident to be active outdoors and a 20 mph limit nudges people towards lasting behaviour changes.** We need to recognise and reduce the barriers that prevent people from doing normal activities, such as walking to work and shops rather than wait for the bus or drive to the shopping centre. Parents

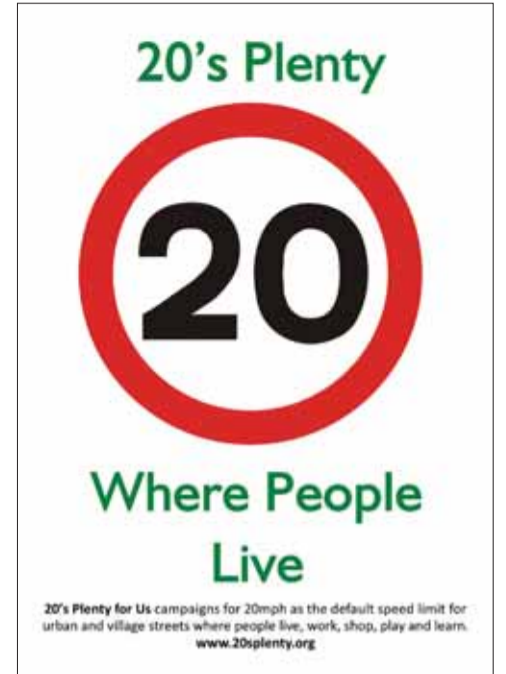
should not have to drive their children short distances to school rather than subject them to the dangers posed by fast moving vehicles. While our bodies have evolved to work better and longer with activity as part of our daily lives, too many people are justifiably wary of walking or cycling on their local roads. Surprisingly, area wide 20mph limits are great value for money – there would be fewer repeater signs, traffic orders and motoring fines could be used to fund some of the necessary changes. One-off area wide implementations are better value than phased; it would be more cost-effective per mph to lower limits across Hereford as driver compliance improves. Cost effectiveness of 20mph limits across a wide area of Hereford city

would mean:-

- Fewer and less serious traffic injuries
- Public and personal health gains from more physical activity in a safer environment
- Noise and air quality improvements
- Fuel savings and less congestion
- Benefitting from a wide range of funding opportunities

Lower speed is an affordable change benefiting us all and tackles not just road risks but also the inactivity time-bomb. It would also make our built-up streets happier, healthier places. There is substantial health and economic gains to be made from this small change to the way we share and use roads in Hereford. If we do nothing we need to know that year on year there have been 6% more people recorded as road injured (nearly 200,000 in 2014)

– the vast majority involved vehicles hitting people.



IT'S A NO BRAINER

Should we not get a small group of broad minded thinkers to consider this in some detail?
(See proposal in the Society's Annual Lecture – see insert) Following consideration the proposal could be submitted to the Cabinet and then to statutory consultation in the usual way. Let's do it. No need for a campaign to change – just conversations to refine the details and link in with parking and other road regulations. We can and we are changing the world. SV

What is a museum?

A museum brings people into contact with objects from the past in various ways – displays, events, creative activities - and that interaction opens up new understanding and self-knowledge, new horizons. The Herefordshire Museum Service has over 100,000 inspirational objects. I looked at this fan, presented to wives of investors in the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire canal in the mid 19th century. It maps the canal's proposed route. The overdue, over budget canal was completed just as the railway arrived. The fan prompted me to muse on historical and contemporary civic and social questions: how did/do we plan and fund our infrastructure and amenities? What were/are our transport options? Why were the women involved in this particular way? Where was Hereford's canal basin? I was enthused by the fan to find out more.



The development of the canal and the Hereford Museum took place in the same mid-Victorian period. "A museum has become a necessity to modern education and no town

collections, new ways to access, learn, remember, and create our own stories. Museums still play a part in binding communities together, connecting past and present, enabling people to express their own, and understand others', identities and to value the histories of places while planning their futures.

professing to possess requisite educational means should be without one." This opinion of the Committee that ran the Hereford Museum was typical of its time, a statement of civic identity and confidence, with its emphasis ("top down" we would say) on education. The Museum started, as do all museums, with some collected objects: in the 1860s James Rankin, Woolhope Club President, wanted a museum to house the Club's growing collections. A Library was added to this aspiration and in 1874 the completed building was opened, its façade celebrating the riches of the collections within. Museums like Hereford's were important in the community's cultural fabric. And they still are.

The answer to the question 'What is a museum?' has remained fundamentally the same. A museum is a number of inter-dependent entities, each one insufficient on its own and each necessary to the whole. At the heart of a museum are its collections. Then there are the professional staff who design and implement the activities and opportunities that give us - audiences, learners, individuals, groups, volunteers – meaningful access to the collections, and who care for and preserve them for future users. Also integral to the whole are the museum buildings and spaces in which all these activities take place. This holistic understanding of what a museum is underpins the Herefordshire Museum Service Support Group's approach to supporting the Museum now, in challenging times, and working to develop its sustainable future.

Miriam Griffiths

Today we conceptualise the civic functions of a museum differently. Now museums work from the "bottom up" to provide opportunities for us to interact on our own terms with objects in the

For more information email herefordmuseumgroup@gmail.com

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PLANNING MATTERS

Signs and Adverts

There has been a flurry of planning applications, some retrospective, for large advertisements on the sides of buildings. In Hereford we are fortunate to inherit from our predecessors some magnificent buildings, and currently we are creating some good ones as well. These are the background to our lives. Do we really want them adorned with advertisements? HCS has considered this in some detail and respectfully suggest that there needs to be agreement on what constitutes a name board and what is an advertisement.



Left Bank

As a general rule we feel that ground floors should be the usual place for information – that is at human scale and informs us of the utility of the building behind its façade.

Hereford is an important cathedral city. Other great cities take pride in preserving the appearance of their magnificent and not so special buildings. On occasion our Planning Officers and Ward Councillors have not been taking a robust approach.

Left Bank signage 163440

Temporary consent has been granted for five years

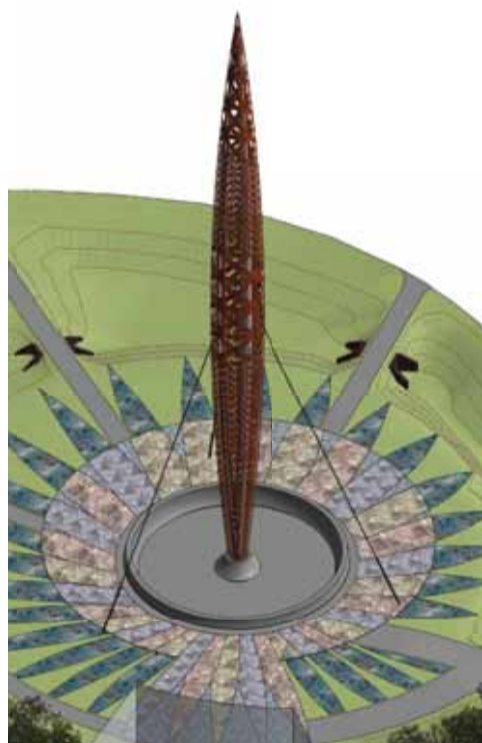
Freedom Church 170081

A retrospective application received a “split decision” requiring the removal of some of the erected signs.

Skylon 163996

HCS is intrigued by this proposal and commented on the Council website:- *It is a pity that the proposal is on a corner site and this location appears to be selected as it is potentially available. Statements of this size and grandeur need to be properly sited in prominent positions, there is little need to give examples of grand boulevards with impressive monuments. Surely the obvious place for this monument is the adjacent roundabout? Clearly stating, as one approaches from the south or*

east, that this is the Skylon Enterprise Zone, Rotherwas. There are many examples of roundabout sculpture, perhaps most stunning those of Cesar Manrique in Lanzarote, one of which I copy below. Although the proposal is quite tall it will not be obviously visible from the approach roads in its proposed position. Although the existing proposed guy ropes would just about work on the roundabout, no doubt there would



Kyrle Street Houses at risk . Part of our heritage.

be traffic concerns, but these could be overcome with a different construction method or a slightly reduced height. Further the proposed use of the site for events seems a little unsuitable as the site is mainly wildflower meadow. See page 8 for more on Manrique.

Kyrle Street 163699

Application for demolition of two houses and the erection of a block of flats was rejected. Jean O'Donnell writes *These two houses are part of a 10 house estate build by Thomas Nicholson for the Hereford Society for Aiding the Industrious in 1872. Venn Road, as it was then named, was created on land belonging to the Society with the idea that it should provide homes with productive gardens for the working man to sustain his family. The road was a continuation of the way to the washing baths and the new swimming baths. There was an experimental garden opposite and a gardener was employed to instruct the tenants about horticulture and how to use the manure that was manufactured as part of the enterprise. The houses were provided with earth closets and irrigation from waste water. The lavatory was attached to the rear of the house. The first house next to the baths was larger because it was the laboratory where experiments were carried out to create formulas for manures to keep up land productivity and to use the waste from the earth closets. This system was introduced in primary schools round*

the City at this time. George With lived next to the laboratory and was the chemist. He was a remarkable man. For twenty-five years he was an outstanding Headmaster of the Bluecoat School. He was born in London in 1827 and spent two years at St. John's College, Battersea training as a teacher. He was one of England's first certificated teachers.

This house is not only is an integral part of the Venn Road (Kyrle Street) enterprise but housed a vital part of the project. With's manure recipe was patented and used in earth closets. He was an associate of Rev. Henry Moule, well-known inventor of manures. The house housed the rear buildings associated with this method. The garden was part of the experiment and at one time had hot houses heated by surplus steam from the nearby Society steam mill.

The Venn project is still visible and it would seem sacrilege to destroy such an early design (before Garden Cities when the idealism of good homes for working people were made possible) and an amazing and famous scientist was its guide. The houses are largely complete with later additions at the front. It seems wrong to break up a piece of social history of an enterprising and benevolent kind. The association of George With, who was eminent in his field, make the laboratory building of importance and alongside the baths complex, any demolition should be resisted.

Bibliography

J. O'Donnell - *John Venn and the Hereford Poor*, Logaston Press 2007

R.A. Marriott - *The Life and Legacy of G.H. With 1827-1904*, British Astronomical Association NASA



Steven Thomas of Watkins Thomas

Steven Thomas first joined the company in 1987, and became Director of Watkins Thomas Ltd in 2012. Born in Hereford in 1964, Steve graduated with a BSc. in Estate Management in 1986; is a Fellow of the National Association of Estate Agents (FNAEA) and a Member of the Association of Residential Letting Agents (MARLA).

5 King Street, Hereford HR4 9BW

Our 'black and white' office is situated just beyond Hereford Cathedral on the left hand side of King Street. Whether you are seller or a buyer, a landlord or a tenant, we are happy to offer advice so why not drop in for a chat? Our experienced staff will be pleased to advise you on sales and rental related matters. Alternatively we can visit and provide a market appraisal of your property, with a view to either selling or letting; our initial visit is without charge or obligation. So if you are thinking of making a move in 2017 contact us now – we look forward to hearing from you.

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MEETINGS

Thursday 19th January 2017

The Destruction of Victorian Hereford

David Whitehead, our most popular writer and historian, regular contributor to our magazine and founder member of the Society brought the crowds in – nearly one hundred members and visitors!

With intriguing pictures and unexpected facts and stories many wished the evening wouldn't end. Such was the interest we recruited a dozen new members. How important though is the need to maintain the best of the past and build good stuff for the future.

Thursday 16th February 2017

Public transport solutions for Hereford

Gareth Davies, chairman of Rail and Bus for Hereford, gave us a rumbustious run through his ideas of more and better public transport. There were few pictures of buses and trams, but much detailed justification for more investment. Robust argument followed over what is actually spent which well-illustrated the problem we always have understanding the full picture.

Thursday 23rd March 2017

Annual Civic Society Lecture Planning Hereford?!

Held at the University Centre in Folly Lane John Bothamley, Chairman of HCS, set out his ideas on planning and called for an Urban Room. See report in supplement.

YOUR OPINIONS

Lanzarote

Cesar Manrique, architect and polymath, left his mark on this remarkable island. Volcanic stone and ash create a surreal picture, devoid of trees and greenery apart from waving date palms. Driving on well-kept roads, sweeping through this strange countryside, one is aware of the absence of advertising hoardings and an apparent building code restricting buildings to low rise. The white seaside villages all have blue painted windows and doors; inland usually brown or green when facing the mountains. This all brought about by the devotion of one man leading a campaign to prevent the despoliation of this unique island. Manrique went so far as to turn out at night with a mechanical digger to demolish advertising hoardings – he was listened to. An artist, as well as an architect, he somewhat arrogantly, designed and built inspiring sculptures for several of the traffic roundabouts, and leaves a creditable collection of artworks inspired by the likes of Picasso and Miro. And, not least, a wonderful cacti garden, night club within caves in the larva, homes, restaurants and interpretation centres.

A fierce environmentalist, he wanted the island to keep its natural qualities and, whilst encouraging tourism, he sought to provide facilities and stimulation for

the visitors. A small doorway into an apparent hillside, reveals a stunning view of the adjacent island of Graciosa from the top of a 1,400 foot cliff. He bequeathed this to the country - such was his passion for all to enjoy and respect nature in every one of its aspects.

His legacy is largely intact with the island designated an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

What could Hereford learn from this remarkable man?

Would we not like to see our own City become a little less downmarket, small town commercial in appearance, but to be known for its environmental credentials and able to better showcase its superb collection of buildings from across the centuries? A beautiful place attracts more visitors and business – “A” boards only attract those from adjacent shops – an attractive built environment brings visitors to the whole City. We already have Hereford in Bloom and BID improving appearances – how about also

- the banning of “A” boards,
- restricting advertisements above ground floor level,
- the banning of commercially branded umbrellas and fences around outside eating areas,



- an improvement to signage over shops that respects the style within the street.
- High Town coffee bars to be relocated into the adjacent vacant shops.
- a performance stage/screen to be erected in High Town for events and celebrations.

These proposals, if universally acted upon, could turn the City into the coolest place west of Oxford. JB

Disclaimer

The views expressed in the letters, reviews, news and features in this issue are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the members of Hereford Civic Society.

Join Us

If you want to influence the future of the City and enjoy lectures and discussions about the built environment, old and new, JOIN US - your membership fee covers printing and distribution of our magazine, meeting expenses and, web site and publicity costs. It does not cover members' time - all of which is freely given.

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Forthcoming Events

All meetings at the Kindle Centre behind ASDA, Belmont, Hereford HR2 7JE except May (at 27 Southbank Road) 7.00pm refreshments for 7.30pm start.

Thursday 18th May 2017

Open House at 27 Southbank Road, Hereford HR1 2TJ

(off Aylestone Hill)

Open House at Clare and Huw Rees' new home. This new house is built to exacting Passivhaus standards. Hear about translating one's dream home into reality. Park nearby in Chartwell, Rockfield and Elm roads and walk!

MEMBERS ONLY

Thursday 15th June 2017

Highways and byways.

Civil Engineer, Richard Perkins of Balfour Beatty in Herefordshire, manages and maintains the county's huge highways network. An illustrated insight into this subject of endless public concern and debate.

Saturday 17th June 2017

Civic Day - High Town (10am-4pm)

Visit our pagoda and raise our profile! We are the forum for the built environment.

Saturday 15th July 2017

Study Outing - Woodchester Mansion, near Stroud.

Coach departs Merton Meadow car park at 9.00am. Return 6.30pm. Conducted tour of a huge unfinished mansion near Stroud started in the 1850s and much more. Early booking essential as there are limited places. See front page for more details.



2 for £10 Lunch Menu
Monday to Saturday

Summer Promotion Chef's Special Menu
Last Orders 7.30pm | Monday to Saturday

GOLF | RESTAURANT | BAR

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