



Grantham
Civic Society

www.granthamcivicsociety.co.uk

masthead artwork by Georgina Green

Newsletter

June 2022

Grantham Civic Society aims to:

Preserve the town's remaining fine or historically interesting buildings

Monitor the upkeep of green spaces

Keep a watching brief on new developments

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Diary dates (booking details on page 4)

Please put the following dates in your diaries for future events.

Saturday 16 July

Trip to Barton on Humber to be hosted by Barton Civic Society

Sunday 14 August

Summer Social at Ropsley Heath Light Railway

Kindly hosted by Robert Holland

Saturday 10 / Sunday 11 September

Heritage Open Days Grantham

Saturday 17 / Sunday 18 September

Georgian Heritage Festival, Folkingham

From the Chairman

Some 23 of us met with Buckminster Trust at the Museum on 27 May to hear their views on the Pennine Way connection to Great Gonerby. The 2011 Section 106 planning agreement requires a road bridge to be built when the 750th house at Poplar Farm estate is completed. There have been a number of developers and around 700 houses have been finished. We have long argued that a full road bridge connection to Great Gonerby was essential for connectivity in the town. Buckminster have discussed the matter with County Council highways and they seem to think the completion of the southern relief road at the end of 2023 will reduce the need for a Pennine Way road bridge and may favour just a cycle/footpath. The 2011 cost of a full road bridge was originally said to be £6-8m and may well be upwards of £10m now. You can imagine that Buckminster do not want to incur this cost although they say that the County Council would prefer a contribution to other highway projects including the southern relief road itself whose cost is going to exceed £100m. They say a full traffic survey will be necessary when the southern relief road is in operation.

Our members asked many questions and it was clear that we all favoured a proper road bridge on Pennine Way. The Section 106 conditions can only be overturned or changed by a fresh planning application to SKDC but they will obviously take account of the County Council Highways' views. We shall continue pressure for the road bridge.

It is Heritage Saturday on 18 June and at 11am we have arranged for our member and new Town Mayor Cllr Graham Jeal to unveil our latest Blue plaque on the front of the Angel and Royal Hotel to celebrate its long history as one of our finest buildings.

You may have seen a big article in the Journal about the opening, by the Lord Lieut., of Robert Holland's Ropsley Heath Light railway. We shall be there for our Cream tea afternoon on Sunday 14 August. More details later but the cost is £5pp and the event is from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

Courtney Finn



Blue Plaques

On Sunday 3 April members of Grantham Doric Lodge of freemasons joined the Mayor and our members to walk to the Market Place when the Mayor, with due ceremony, opened the Mid Lent Fair. After this, Keith Harrison, Worshipful Master of Doric Lodge, unveiled our Blue plaque to Manuel Immanuel, one of the founders of the Doric Lodge. Father Stuart Craddock said a blessing and David Leigh said Kaddish for Manuel in English and Hebrew which was most appropriate. Ruth Crook said a few words about Manuel and why we have celebrated him with a Blue plaque. The masons wore their regalia and the crowds were gathering for the Fair. We then returned to the Guildhall for refreshments provide by SKDC and the Showmen's Guild. Apart from trying to compete with the noise of the Fair all went well and the plaque looks good.



The Angel and Royal is our next subject and we have another plaque to commemorate its long history. The approval process took a bit of time as we had to apply for Listed Building consent and our wording was queried by a member of the public as not being the same as the official Listing wording. However this got sorted out and the plaque has been made. **Courtney Finn**

Grantham town centre Community design charrette

This took place on 21 and 22 April with a summary session on Sat 23 April. A number of our members attended and I took part during the summary. SKDC has plans to regenerate the town centre with approx £6.5m to deliver what is described as transformational change including the restoration of historic buildings, improvements to public access and activating city centre living. It is part of the Heritage Action zone plans and includes the Future High Street Fund programme that will support the delivery of residential opportunities in the town centre.

Many ideas were put forward including some in street planning and possible changes to one way streets in the town following the completion of the East West bypass. The sessions were run by a number of consultants who have much experience with other towns like Grantham. They are going to issue a full report in due course which we will circulate to you. **Courtney Finn**

Book stall

Thanks to everyone who visited or helped staff our stall at the Grantham Vintage Festival on 30 April & 1 & 2 May. We sold over £350 worth of new and second hand books and since then have sold over £150 worth through Facebook and our own website. We have a few copies left of Malcolm Knapp's **Grantham - the War Years 1939-1945 at a special price of £9**. We also have a few copies of **Grantham in the News** by John Pinchbeck. These are £8 for **1901-25** and **1926-50** and £6 for **1851-75** and **1976-1900**. There are just a few used copies of Malcolm's **Grantham - a Pictorial History** at £6 and only one copy of **The Changing Face of Grantham** by John Pinchbeck at £7. Please contact me for details of postage or how to collect. Whatever the weather, you can usually find something to read and enjoy the summer. By the time the next Civic Society Newsletter is circulated, it is expected that Borough Government in Restoration Grantham - The Hall Book of Grantham 1662-1704 will have been published by the Lincoln Record Society. It will be some 595 pages in total and covers the records of our Borough Corporation over the latter part of the Seventeenth Century. Start saving as the cover price will be £40 - well worth it of course (who says I am biased?). We hope to be able to offer a small discount in due course.

John Manterfield

Newark visit Wednesday 25 May

Our trip to Newark started on the steps of the Palace Theatre, established in 1920, and continued with a guided walk around the town led by Sandra, a guide from the Newark Town and Civil War Museum. Thanks to Arthur Ambrose for organising this. Jane Handsley posted on Facebook afterwards "A great tour, seeing things in Newark I'd never seen before."



AGM and talk about the new east-west bypass ~ 24 March

The AGM was well attended and followed a very interesting talk about construction of the new East West by-pass by Galliford Try Infrastructure who are building it. James Stuart and Barry Knox, the project managers of phases 2 and 3, gave an illustrated account of their work so far. Our contact was Gino Salvatore, their Liaison manager. Phase 1 from the A1 to the B1174 had been completed by another contractor.

The statistics are amazing: 90,000 m³ (approx 180,000 tons) of earth moved mostly from the west to "fill" in the east. They have to test the earth to make sure it is fit for use by particle size and moisture content. The underpass beneath the A1 contains 207 piles to form abutments and wing walls and there are 29 no. 17m beams of 14 tonnes each. The new connections to the A1 were complex to construct, requiring the diversion of one carriage way of the A1 at a time onto a temporary road while excavations were made and piling drilled to form the underpass under one side of the A1 before flipping the process to build the other half of the underpass and then joining them up. The roads to the west of Spittlegate level are all pretty much finished now and await opening up to traffic in due course.

Work is now underway forming the section to the east of Spittlegate Level, phase 3. The bridge viaduct over the railway and river will have two main girders each standing 2.65m tall. In total there are 2,300 tonnes of weathering steel required for the viaduct construction with 1,000 32mm bolts holding the different sections together. In addition 1,100 tonnes of reinforcement steel in the concrete elements and 8,000 tonnes of concrete. There are 8 no piers making up the viaduct and the piers range from 16m to 22m tall weighing from 70 to 110 tonnes. Each pier is in three components, a stem and 2 arms making up the Y shape. The 5 span viaduct is 29.3 m long spanning the River Witham, Witham flood plain and the East coast railway line. At its tallest the viaduct reaches 26m above the normal level of the River Witham. The viaduct is built in 3 sections and launched across the void from west to east. The launch consists of main superstructure, omnia planks and reinforcement. The deck is concreted in-situ because the deflections of up to 400mm while launching would crack the deck. All of this has to be carried out without affecting traffic on the railway line below!

Some 900m of embankment are being constructed up to 16m tall with 750,000 tons of rock (mostly limestone) being excavated. 470,000 tonnes are being crushed for use in the embankment. 105,000 tons of granular fill is being imported. All this excavation is on the east side of the river/railway.

The Galliford Try representatives said that they hoped to have a public open day when we would all be able to walk over the bridge, take photos etc, before it is all opened to traffic.

Following the talk a number of interesting questions were answered and thanks were given to the speakers

In the following business meeting the officers and executive committee were re-elected for 2022. Our member, Cllr Graham Jeal, gave an explanation of the 11 March letter we all received from SKDC regarding the review about whether Grantham should have a Town Council. Graham explained the importance of this Community Governance Review for the future of Grantham and urged us all to vote on whether we should have a Town Council and where we think the boundaries should be. For me this latter is the tricky bit and you will all have your own views but I am in favour of having as much of the locality included so that more people are represented giving more influence to the council. The consultation ended on 22 April. The majority view expressed seems to be in favour of having a Town Council.

Courtney Finn

Phase 3 underway.



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Membership

Membership forms can be obtained from Ruth Crook or downloaded from the website. Membership currently costs **£12 per annum** (£22 for two people at the same address)

Events for the coming months.....

Barton on Humber trip

Saturday 16 July 2.30pm Coach trip to Barton on Humber

Hosted by Barton on Humber Civic Society

Coach departs Meres Centre car park 8.30am **PROMPT** and leaves Barton at 4.30pm to return

Price £18 per person. Names and payment to Graham Cook by Saturday 9 July please

Summer Social

Sunday 14 August (kindly hosted by Robert Holland) at the Ropsley Heath Light Railway, Glebe Farm, Chain Lane, Ropsley Heath, Grantham NG33 4AU 2.30—4.30pm ~ £5 per person

Names and payment to Graham Cook by Wednesday 3 August please

Heritage Weekend Grantham

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 September

The King's School, Grantham House, St Wulframs and The Old Burial Ground will be open as usual. All free entry.

Will any volunteers to help man events please contact John Manterfield asap.

Folkingham Georgian Heritage Festival

Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 September

Folkingham village will be holding a Heritage Weekend event which we are all invited to attend ~ Entry free

We will be holding a book stall so again can any volunteers to help please contact John Manterfield.

New GCT button badges

Grantham Civic Society have had some small, high quality, metal and enamel button badges manufactured. The badges which are 1cm in diameter are free to members of the society and will be distributed at our forthcoming events. All the best people are wearing one!!

The committee wrote to HM the Queen, congratulating her on her platinum jubilee and received a reply from her private office at Buckingham Palace.

Ruth Crook



Jubilee postbox topper on Great Gonerby

Following on from the lovely festive Christmas postbox topper put up in Castlegate, and featured in the last newsletter, Great Gonerby have now continued this wonderful local tradition with their own creation atop the postbox outside the Post Office on the Great North Road, in honour of Her Majesty's recent Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Graham Cook

