



Grantham
Civic Society

www.granthamcivicsociety.co.uk



masthead artwork by Georgina Green

Newsletter

Spring 2021

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

Inside this issue:

Provisional events 1

From the Chairman 1

St Mary's catholic church
(article taken from old
Civic Trust
bulletin) 2

Rivercare report 3

4

Book Shop 4



Forthcoming diary dates

Please note that owing to ongoing covid uncertainties the committee have found it difficult to make firm arrangements for some coming events and we are still trying to arrange these. In the meantime the next event will be :-

Thursday 13 May at 7.00 pm John Manterfield will give a Zoom talk entitled "Churches and Chapels in Victorian Grantham, including the restoration of St Wulfram's church in the 1860s".
Meeting ID: 833 5490 2101
Passcode: 221408



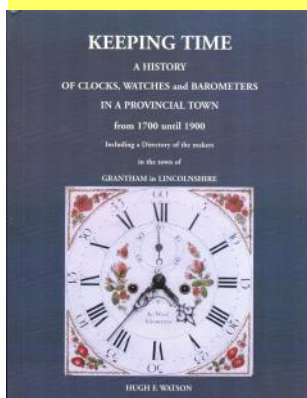
From the Chairman

Your Planning subcommittee reads all the planning applications issued each week by the District Council. They often run to over 10 pages of proposals for all of South Kesteven. It has become noticeable over the last 5 years at least that there is less development taking place in Grantham. There are a small number of major housing schemes in the pipeline for which at least conditional approval has been given, but these take years in the planning process as developer and planners negotiate the details. This is one reason why the government wants to speed up planning processes. We emailed you our comments on the new district style guide (and sent you a link to this) and have now submitted these to the planning department.

Looking back through our archives I find we commented on the Ministry of Housing's plan to build a new wall on St Peter's Hill in front of the new post office which would have "revetments" for seats and trees to be planted. This was in Sept 1969 when there was also an application for a supermarket at 52/53 High Street. Our views were sought by the then Borough Surveyor, and we duly sent in a diagram plan of how we thought it should look. The old borough came to an end in the local government reorganisation of 1974. Many still believe that Grantham lost its voice and the 15 or so Grantham councillors were submerged with over 50 in South Kesteven. At the time our Chairman Malcolm Knapp said "we now have no say in our own affairs and we must be forever vigilant and not let our town be ravaged anymore by people who have no allegiance to the town and who don't live here". It was fighting talk as Malcolm himself said.

In the 1980's Chairman John Kendall reported that Grantham was booming and we celebrated our 25th anniversary in September 1986. In October that year John Manterfield gave us a talk on the Ordnance Mapping of Lincolnshire and we are pleased to report that John is still giving us the benefit of his local knowledge.

Courtney Finn



See page 4

The church of St Mary, Grantham

The Church of St Mary The Immaculate stands at the junction of the A52 and the old Great North Road. It was one of the early town churches of the Roman Catholic revival in England, after the passing of the Emancipation Act of 1826. However, there had been a priest serving in the district since before 1778, the priest in that year being Father Bushby who died at Barrowby. It is possible he was resident in that village and there can be no reasonable doubt that he said Mass in Grantham. His immediate successor said Mass in Russells Court, Westgate. Grantham was also served for a time by a French emigre priest, Father T.G. Iver, and one must not forget the local families such as the “recusant” Lutterells of Irnham, who stayed loyal to the “old faith” and whose chapel was moved to Corby Glen when the last of the family died out. Two branches of the Thorold family were also Catholic.

The circumstance which led to the building of the present church and the purchase of the presbytery were somewhat unusual. In 1831, the Tempest family of Broughton Hall, Yorkshire, stopped at Grantham while travelling along the Great North Road. Among the party was young Thomas Peter Tempest, already a student, preparing to be a priest. He noticed at the corner of Barrowby Road there was a large house for sale and a site suitable for a church. He bought it with his own patrimony and on February 29th 1831 laid the foundation stone. It was opened by Bishop Walsh of Nottingham on May 1st 1832.

According to the “Shell Guide to Lincolnshire” the Tempests were an immensely wealthy Yorkshire family, whose great house at Broughton explains why a young member of the family could create a new church almost with a wave of the hand. Apparently they inherited Coleby Hall near Lincoln and up to 1914 used to spend several months there, travelling by private train from Skipton to Harmston with servants, attendants, horses and grooms.

The architect was Mr Edwin Wilson of Lincoln. The church was originally built in the ionic classical style, surmounted by a small cupola and cross with a statue of the Virgin over the pedimented doorway and a clock. The greater part of the original cost of £4,000 was met personally by Father Tempest. In 1884, a new chancel, mortuary chapel and baptistry were added at a cost of £1,042. The church was completely remodelled in the 1960's with a new entrance and vestibule being added with new entrance steps and ramp. The church was completely re-orientated inside with a large modern extension added with choir and organ. Modern pictures for the Stations of the Cross have since been painted by an artist member of the congregation.

Courtney Finn. *Text taken from the Grantham Civic Trust Bulletin containing the report of the 1978 AGM*



RiverCare report ~ momentous news

RiverCare BeachCare (East Anglia) is a Keep Britain Tidy project funded in our region by Anglian Water. Currently supporting 50 local community groups to litter pick, undertake citizen science projects and act as guardians of their local watercourse or beach.

11th February 2021

It was a very successful week for Grantham RiverCare! The volunteer group, who are supported by Keep Britain Tidy and Anglian Water, to care for the River Witham as it passes through Grantham, were delighted to receive two pieces of good news. Firstly, it was announced that the team of volunteers are one of three finalists shortlisted for the BBC Radio Lincolnshire's Make a Difference Awards 2020 in the Green Champions category. They were nominated by Keep Britain Tidy's Cate Holborn, for their outstanding work driving positive action and environmental awareness amongst local residents and organisations for the last 16 years. Since they were established in 2004, the group have clocked over 5,000 hours caring for their adopted 1.8 mile stretch of the River Witham, collecting over 25 tonnes of litter pollution. Ms Holborn said, "Without Grantham RiverCare there would not be the driving force in the local community for action to protect the River Witham and its wildlife. They make Grantham a clean and safe community, and for that their impact is exceptional." The award winners will be announced in Spring 2021.

The community group were later thrilled to have also been selected as a Community Champion in the Grantham Central area by the Lincolnshire Co-op. From Sunday 7th March to Saturday 5th June 2021, members who shop at the Lincolnshire Co-op can use their dividend card to ensure a donation will go to Grantham RiverCare. The team intend to use the funding to continue to care for the river, particularly after several pollution incidents were identified and reported in local watercourses in 2020. The project will inspire and educate the whole community and provide valuable equipment for their volunteers to monitor the health of the river. Grantham RiverCare volunteers also undertake 'citizen science' projects including the regular monitoring of water quality at nine sites around our town. These results are fed into a national database and have increased the understanding of the dynamics across the whole Witham catchment area.

For more information contact Ian Simmons (07950 000928) or David Martin (07739 864490)

David Martin and Ian Simmons
Co-leaders Grantham Rivercare

Find us on facebook at;
[fb.me/rivercaregrantham](https://www.facebook.com/rivercaregrantham)

<http://www.rivercare.org.uk>
(an Anglian Water/Keep Britain Tidy Project)



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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)

Town boundary posts

Your Committee members continue to go around the various historic town boundary posts to re-expose and clean them. Below is the post on the now largely forgotten, but lovely, Coldharbour Lane as it climbs up onto Hall's Hill on the east side of the old town. Some rather nice new houses, seen in the mist, have recently been built up here.



Grantham Hospital old building

There has been a lot in the local press recently about fresh campaigns to try to save the pleasant Victorian cottage hospital building, on Manthorpe Road, from demolition.

The Society has publicly issued a statement of their views on this matter which has been circulated to councillors, the press and to all GCS members. For those who do not receive our email communications a printed copy is attached with this newsletter.

The photo above shows the building in earlier times, before it was allowed, by the Health Authority, to decline into its present sad condition.

Book Shop

One of the best researched books ever published on Grantham (in my view) is *Keeping Time* by the late Hugh Watson. This is not just about watches and clocks and the over sixty clock, watch and barometer makers who were active in our town from 1700 to 1900. The book tells us much more about the Georgian and Victorian town. It is well illustrated in colour and b/w with images of their handiwork and with images drawn from advertisements. At £18 this book represents excellent value. New stock also includes the two books by our member Bob Brownlow about Escritt and Barrell... *A History* and *A Lincolnshire Auctioneer's Tale* priced at £7 each. Finally, Dr Brian Stagg (another member) has written a new booklet on *The Trigge Library* at St Wulfram's church. We are happy to sell this at £5 in aid of the Friends of Saint Wulfram. Please contact me to reserve your copies; local delivery is possible or safe collection from our porch in Granta Crescent! Items can be posted at £2 or £3 per item. Book sales are an important source of income to the Society in these restricted times and we continue to fulfil our aims of informing and educating people about our community. We are always keen to receive donations of used copies of local books especially the *Bygone Grantham* series, *Hornsby*, *Aveling Barford*, *Windows on Grantham* and any *Malcolm Knapp* books. Thank you for your support.

John Manterfield

