



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1953-The beginning...

The impulse which led to the formation of the Lincoln Civic Trust first found expression many years ago in protest against the proposed demolition of the churches of St Benedict and St Peter At Arches by agreement between the Ecclesiastical Commission and the Lincoln Corporation. After a prolonged battle, the church of St Benedict was saved and a fund raised for its repair and maintenance; St Peter, which stood at the junction of High Street and Silver Street, was taken down and reproduced in brick, keeping the style, stone facings and fittings at the newly built St Giles housing estate in the north east part of the city.

As one of their community projects, Lincoln Rotary Club looked to support interest in recognising and conserving the city's heritage buildings and encouraging new developments that would be in keeping with their surroundings.

From this early initiative, a public meeting was held at the recently restored Cardinal's Hat on 11th November 1953 and chaired by the Lord Lieutenant, The Rt Hon Earl of Ancaster, who introduced Lord Mottison, of the London Society. He spoke on the need not to make Lincoln a museum-piece but to preserve what is of value and mould the future, so it does not destroy the character of the city.

The Mayor, Cllr Seeley proposed to form the Lincoln Civic Trust, and a Governing Council was formed and an Executive Committee elected, chaired by the Sub Dean Canon Cook. Memorandum and Articles of Association were formulated, and the Trust was formally registered as a charity on 31 December 1953



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1954 Highlights

As St Swithin's Churchyard was disused, unkempt with the many unstable gravestones causing safety issues, the Civic Trust undertook as an initial project to lay them as pathways, remove all the undergrowth surrounding the trees and provide a special corner for the blind with sweet smelling shrubs and flowers. When completed, this provided a city centre open space with seating that could be enjoyed by citizens and visitors alike.

Prior to the gravestone's removal and re-alignment, all the names and other details on them were recorded by the Civic Trust and these were archived in the City Library. Among the names recorded are several members of the Shuttleworth family as well as other well-known families including Winn, Courtois and Rudguard.

The Civic Trust raised the funds and managed the project with a formal handover to the City authorities taking place on 25 October 1956.

Support by the Civic Trust to the Bailgate Methodist Church in converting the derelict site adjoining the church into a garden and this has improved the neighbourhood and made the approach to Newport Arch far more attractive

The Civic Trust complimented Messrs. Meakers of 292 High Street and the owner, Mrs J.W Clarke on their public-spirited attitude when requested to allow excavation and research during reconstruction of the premises when a public fountain of the Roman period was discovered.

The City Corporation invited the Civic Trust to be represented on the special committee looking at the development of the area between The Strait and Danesgate.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1955 Highlights

Despite vigorous objections by the Civic Trust, Sibthorpe House, a building of distinction on the High Street, and recognised as such by the Ministry of Housing was demolished.

Members of the Civic Trust were consulted on the plans to demolish the Durham Ox pub to make way for the 'new' Pelham Bridge. (The licence for the pub was transferred to the newly built 'Lincoln Imp' that was on the new housing development that became the Ermine Estate)

The Civic Trust were also consulted on the widening of Clasketgate that involved the demolition of the Bulls Head pub; the new Mayfield Bridge, replacing the one constructed in 1868, as well as the refurbishment of St Mary's Conduit.

The Corporations' initiative to remove the bus standings from the High Street to St Mary's Street adjacent to the Central Station was warmly welcomed by the Civic Trust

The Civic Trust were pleased to be involved with the proposals for the reconstruction on the site of the Green Dragon Inn on Waterside North and it will be an attractive building that retains its features and fits in well with the surroundings.

Consideration of a replacement bridge at the Brayford Head by the Corporation was encouraged by the Civic Trust who were anxious that this would resolve the traffic bottleneck at this key location.

The site at Thornbridge currently used as an open carpark was reserved by the Corporation for a new Civic Centre, an amenity that the city lacked.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1956 Highlights

Completion of the Civic Trust's first major work with the formal handing over to the City Corporation of St Swithin's Gardens. The handing over to the Mayor, Cllr C A Lillicrap, was performed by the President of the Civic Trust, the Earl of Ancaster, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire on 25 October 1956 in the new garden where a large company of members of the Civic Trust, the City Corporation and other guests had assembled. A bronze plaque was also unveiled inscribed thus:

ANCIENT CHURCHYARD OF ST SWITHIN A GARDEN LAID OUT FOR THE CITIZENS OF LINCOLN BY THE LINCOLN CIVIC TRUST LIMITED AND PLACED IN THE CARE OF LINCOLN CORPORATION 1956

The Civic Trust had also decided to place plaques on several important buildings in the city and it was agreed to provide the first 3 for Newport Arch, High Bridge and St Mary's Guildhall.

Members of the Civic Trust note that construction work on Pelham Bridge was well underway. Part of the project including culverting the Sincil Dyke with a reinforced concrete deck to provide the maximum area for redevelopment purposes.

Concern was expressed by the Civic Trust over excess advertisements on unsuitable sites in the city and reminded the Corporation of their responsibilities under the 'Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1948' and encouraged refusal if 'it would injure the amenity of its surroundings or endanger public safety by distracting the attention of a driver of a motor vehicle.'

The Civic Trust also sought to encourage an increase in litterbins throughout the city to keep places much tidier than at present.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1957 Highlights

One of the Civic Trust's objectives is to encourage the city's artists and craftsmen and the new signage at the Cardinal's Hat depicting a clerics head and a bronze and wrought-iron sign incorporating the 8 pointed cross of St John painstakingly undertaken by Mr A G Kennedy, who is to be congratulated on his workmanship. The building is now the County HQ of the St John's Ambulance Brigade.

Information relating to the newly constructed telephone exchange at the corner of Broadgate and St Rumbold Street was appreciated by the Civic Trust which revealed that the foundations are 11 feet deep and the main steel structure faced externally with facing bricks of 2 different colours with Clipsham Stone dressings and aluminium windows. Designed by Mr J W Parr ARIBA of the Ministry of Works and now provided the city with a very advanced telephone system.

The Civic Trust were delighted to accept an invitation to use the Guildhall (Stonebow) for use for meetings and it displayed the close working relationship with the City Corporation. Several of the Corporation's officers and employees as well as Councillors were active Members of the Civic Trust.

Consideration was given to form an 'Advisory Bureau' to offer advice to the public on ways and means of improving their property.'

With the River Witham providing exciting opportunities for development in the city centre, the Civic Trust were pleased to be represented on the Corporations Sub-Committee to ensure that any new construction was sympathetic to the surroundings. There was concern over the condition of 21 Waterside North and the Trust were keen that this 15<sup>th</sup> century building should be identified for preservation



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1958 Highlights

Through the Civic Trust's Record Committee, several photographs of vulnerable buildings and new developments within the city had been archived at the City Library and this ongoing project would provide an historic reference of interest to both the present and future generations.

The demolition of old cottages opposite St Botolph's Church were of concern to the Civic Trust who advised the Corporation that they were suggesting that the type of replacement buildings should be in keeping with their surroundings.

Appreciation by the Civic Trust was accorded to the owners of the St James Terrace, 78-85 in Newland, on the maintenance and decoration as the buildings now added an attractive feature of this key roadway.

Over 50 Members of the Civic Trust were entertained at the Carholme Works of the British Thomson-Houston Company to a tour of the manufacturing process of thermionic valves and semiconductor devices that were increasingly used in the field of radio, radar, communication and the electronic industry. The company purchased the old 'Newsum Works' and converted it to the factory with an anticipated workforce of 800, mainly women.

The opening of the Pelham Bridge by HM the Queen on June was a significant event for the city and the Trust were well represented at the event and subsequently provided a commemorative plaque to be installed on the structure to mark the occasion. An open competition was held by the Civic Trust seeking ideas for the layout of the area on Waterside South between High Bridge and Thornbridge. All the entries were exhibited at the Usher Art Gallery and subsequently handed to the City Corporation for consideration.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1959 Highlights

Two further descriptive plaques in Westmorland Slate were placed on the Cardinal's Hat and the Jews' House and were crafted by Mr Pape of Barton-Upon-Humber.

The Civic Trusts' continued supply of photographic records continued apace with further submissions to the collection at the City Library including those of the new Bus Station at St Marks and the Lincolnshire Motors' modern showrooms on Brayford Wharf. This design by Clarke, Hall Scorer & Bright features a hyperbolic paraboloid roof structure and is one of the first type and largest constructed in the UK.

To the Civic Trusts' great regret, the famous High Street hostelry, the Saracen's Head, closed and the site was proposed for redeveloped.

The Civic Trust congratulated the City Corporation on the pleasing Courtois Extension to the Usher Gallery.

Traffic concerns prompted the Civic Trust engaging with the City Corporation to develop through routes and the 'new' South Park Link Road and passes through the Swann Estate which would link Canwick Road with the High Street. It was noted that the railway bridge on the Grantham line would have to be raised by 15" to accommodate the future electrification of the line, planned for 1980

The Civic Trust have been heavily involved in the proposals for the Brayford Head Scheme to provide an East-West route through the city from the north end of Pelham Bridge to the A57 at the Carholme.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1960 Highlights

The Civic Trust were encouraged by the extensive restorative work on buildings on Steep Hill and the School of Art on Christ's Hospital Terrace, as well as other buildings in the vicinity undergoing some measure of refurbishment all of which in in keeping with the areas

A terra-cotta finish to the building at 191 High Street had been revealed following a sensitive redevelopment by the East Midlands Electricity Board. It had been built in 1895 as banking premises for Peacock, Wilson & Co and designed by W G Watkins. The modern design of the showroom and display areas was welcomed by the Civic Trust.

An interesting improvement to industrial premises was commended by the Civic Trust following the demolition of the old Henry Poppleton's sweet factory on the corner of the Rope Walk and Beevor Street, with the new modern factory premises were built by James Dawson & Co as the result of their expanding V-belt manufacturing facility.

When the City of Lincoln Association for the Care of the Elderly decided that they needed to provide an All Purpose Hall as the next stage in the development of welfare facilities, they sought guidance from the Civic Trust on suitability of location as well as for a practical design that complimented its surroundings. The site comprises an area Baker's Row and St Mark's Street with a modern single storey development with the opportunity to build a second floor when future funding was available,

Following the demolition of Cottesford Place 3 years earlier, the Civic Trust applauded the sensitive restoration of the remaining stables and coach house that now formed a new dwelling house retaining many of the features of the early buildings.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1961 Highlights

The Civic Trust noted the transformation of the external appearance of Mawer & Collingham's store giving it a modern look and the Lincoln Co-operative Society are progressing with the Silver Street redevelopment scheme, which will be a great improvement on the former block of 19<sup>th</sup> century gloom. The rebuilding will also mean a wider Silver Street and so aid the movement of traffic.

It is recalled that the area around Broadgate, Waterside South and Silver Street had been earmarked by the Corporation as a site for a new Civic Centre although little progress had been made towards this important and strategic development. The Civic Trust are keen to encourage the Corporation to undertake this major development as soon as practicable for the overall benefit of the city and its residents. Gilbert's new car showroom and Barker & Lee Smith's new offices in the vicinity will blend with the anticipated design of the area, whilst the new Woolworth store on the old Saracen's Head site was awaited, a welcome increase to the city centre shopping area.

The new building for the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance in Grantham Street is giving a new look to this part of the city centre and with the adjoining Wesley Chapel site shops and office scheme, will expand the city centre a little further. The Civic Trust are keen that the planned inner ring-road will soon be constructed and provide ease of traffic movement through the city.

Two new Industrial areas in the city, one on Outer Circle Road and the other on Moorland Avenue will help the decentralisation of industry and making journey to work more comfortable.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1962 Highlights

Lincoln Corporation established a Brayford Pool Development Committee to look at proposals for this site and invited the Trust to be represented on it.

It was decided that the Civic Trust would combine with Lincoln Rotary Club in presenting a pair of silver candlesticks for use in 'Lincoln Hall' at Nottingham University.

The 'Kirke White Boys Club' premises in Swanpool Court stand in the line of the proposed new ring-road and will be purchased and demolished by the Corporation who have offered an alternative site on the Strait. The Civic Trust has worked with the architect to keep the design of the new building in harmony with its surroundings.

The 'Neale Bros Furniture' business at the top of the High Street had sent to the Civic Trust illustrations of the proposed major alterations to the property for its observations and approval was given for this improvement to this important part of the city.

The publication by the Corporation of the revised City of Lincoln Development Plan caused a climate of dissatisfaction and criticism amongst the residents and businesses alike. Attention had been drawn to the necessity of detailed surveys to discover the social and functional patterns of the city; for planning must start from an appreciation of the proper relationships between industries, source of supply, housing of all kinds, shopping areas and traffic. The Civic Trust engaged the services of Mr M Lock, FRIBA, AADipl, MTPI, the noted planning consultant to act on their behalf and it formally objected to these proposals to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on 4 December on the basis that insufficient consideration had been given to the location of shopping, housing and industry.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1963 Highlights

A meeting between the Civic Trust and Corporation officers regarding the City of Lincoln Development Plan took place with the aim of producing a long-term plan for new buildings and infrastructure that would be sympathetic to the city's environment and long-term economic growth. The Trust were represented at a meeting convened by the mayor to discuss the possibility of a university at Lincoln

Correspondence with the Sub-Dean on the matter of heavy traffic in the Cathedral area which is also being considered by the Dean and Chapter.

The Civic Trust gave a grant of £150 to Mr R Cox to assist with the renovation of 38 and 39 Steep Hill.

The Civic Trust noted with pleasure the repainting of 'The Harlequin' by the Corporation and the Midland Bank were also commended on the refurbishment of their building on the High Street and Corporation Street corner.

Together with the Cathedral Friends, the Civic Trust agreed to underwrite the cost of producing a booklet celebrating Shakespeare's Quatercentenary detailing Richard 11 and his association with Lincoln. Any profit was to go to the Theatre Royal who were staging 'Richard 111' for three weeks during the summer.

Commendation letters were sent to the Lincoln Co-operative Society in respect of the sympathetic restorative work that had been undertaken on the 15<sup>th</sup> century 'Whitefriars' building in Akrill's passage

The Civic Trust encourage the Corporation to publish and display the Town Centre map together with the 3 'phasing maps' showing how the future city centre development would look



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1964 Highlights

A Lincoln By-pass had been long sought by both the Corporation and the Civic Trust. A Government-led Public Enquiry was held in conjunction with both the Lindsey County Council and Kesteven County Council. The provisional route from South Hykeham (A46) and through the east side of the city, beyond Bracebridge Heath, Washingborough and round the norther part of the city crossing Nettleham, Riseholme and Burton Roads and thence down Burton Cliff to the Saxilby Road (A57). It was anticipated that the work would be completed by the early 1970s

On 15 May, the Newport Arch was severely damaged as the result of impact from a lorry travelling south from the River Humber. The main archway was broken, the centre collapsed and 2 of the voussoirs were fractured. The gateway was taken down, stone by stone, to remove the vehicle; each stone was numbered and through co-operation of the City Engineer, Ministry of Public Building and Works, together with others, the work was completed at a total cost of £1,596, met by the lorries insurers and re-opened on 4 August. At the Civic Trusts recommendation, illuminated warning lights were placed on the restored arch and traffic diverted along Church Lane

Lincoln's 'Danish Week' that was inspired by the Civic Trust was a major success and residents had an opportunity to examine the crafts and wares, as well as the entertainment put on by the visiting Danes,

The centenary of mathematician George Boole's birth was celebrated on 7 November by placing a plaque on 3 Pottergate, a house clearly associated with his name.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1965 Highlights

The Civic Trust is showing lively interest in the efforts now being made by local organisations to bring about a major improvement in amenities of the Brayford Pool, an unsightly stretch of water in the city and are involved in the 'Brayford Improvement Committee', having given a grant of £100 to engage a specialist consultant architects, Bartlett & Gray, of Nottingham to provide proposals on what might be done.

Lincoln's traffic issues had long been a concern of the Civic Trust and they hosted a public meeting to hear Mr K W Smigelsksi, the City Planning Officer of Leicester speak on 'A Plan for the Motor Age'

The Junior Civic Trust published their Report on the need for updated swimming provision in the city as there was only 2 public pools, both open-air and closed during the winter months. The result from the consultations was a resounding 'yes' from people who would be happy for new facilities to be funded from an increased rate charge

The Corporation had asked the Civic Trust for assistance in ensuring that all the statutory footpaths in their records were all free and unobstructed. Members tramped over 60 such footpaths during the summer and again during the winter, preparing a report on each one.

A Survey of all the trees in the St Anne's, Sewell Road and Wragby Road was undertaken by the Civic Trust with the report to the Corporation resulting that many of these had Protection Orders allocated to them. It was hoped that such useful surveys can be carried out elsewhere in the city with similar satisfactory outcomes.

The Civic Trust's concern over St James Terrace 78-88 Newland, that these buildings might be demolished, but any decision on their future was deferred.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1966 Highlights

Dernstall House, the semi-derelict 15<sup>th</sup> century building on the Strait adjacent to the restored 'Cardinal's Hat' had been acquired by the Civic Trust at a cost of £4,500, including architects plans and surveys, from Gadsby's Art Shop, who had initially purchased it with a view to restoration and relocating their art business within. Difficulties for a commercial business to obtain grant funding to assist with the work made it necessary to dispose of the property. The Trust took on the major project with initial funds from the estate of the late Mr Levine (£1,000), from the Trustees of John Halkes, (£500) and the newly established Lincolnshire Association (£250) and a mortgage through the Halifax Building Society (£2,750). This was the first step, followed by the launch of a fundraising appeal to raise £20,000,

Despite the Civic Trust's efforts, the Royal Insurance Offices in Silver Street were demolished. An impressive example of Victorian architecture to the design of Pearson Bellamy of the well-known Lincoln firm of architects, Bellamy and Hardy.

Lincoln's features were displayed to the nation when BBC 'Look North' undertook a review with members of the Junior Civic Trust who highlighted some of the advantages as well as a shortage of amenities available to young people.

For a number of years, the Civic Trust have been advocating the appointment of a qualified architect planner and were delighted that Mr Percy Jackson DipArch., MTPI, ARIBA had been appointed as the city's first Planning Officer.

The Trusts' Membership had increased to 362



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1967 Highlights

The Civic Trust were disappointed that following the refurbishment of the 'Whitefriars' building, the fine 15<sup>th</sup> century structure's benefits couldn't be fully appreciated as a new building had been built some 6 feet away and destroyed any opportunity to enjoy this significant building's visibility. Access is through the narrow Akrill's Passage.

With the demolition of the Great Northern Hotel on the High Street, new shops have been opened whilst across the road the former Stables have also been lost and replaced with shops

A new City School on Skellingthorpe Road was under construction along with Manor Leys on Hykeham Road whilst the new school at Birchwood now had its first pupils.

The new Roman Catholic Church of St Peter and St Pauls has been completed in a very modern and attractive style

A survey by the Civic Trust of Victorian and Edwardian buildings in the city had been completed and given to the city planning team for reference and monitoring.

The Civic Trust pressed the Corporation to 'tidy up' the Glory Hole and the vacant land on Kesteven Street that had been the site of the coal-yard; both were becoming an eyesore in the city. Action was also sought on the old post office site on Midland Yard as businesses there experienced difficulty in waste disposal.

A new wing at the County Hospital had been completed and blended well with the main buildings.

Car parking difficulties were a continual theme of the Civic Trust at their regular meeting with the City Planning Officer in the hope that some form of strategic plan can be developed.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1968 Highlights

The Civic Trust maintained its interest in the Castle Hill parking area encouraging the Corporation to continue with the 'tidying up' routine alongside other key visitor areas in the city.

Milletts were to be congratulated for the excellent job of redecoration on their premises in Melville Street.

Whilst approving the new Danesgate multi-storey car park, the Civic Trust were anxious that the building should add to the amenity of the area and be integrated with the historically attractive Steep Hill and the Strait

A completed report, incorporating a public house recorded street record had been completed by the Civic Trust and submitted to the Planning Officer to assist with future developments.

For the second year, a conference was held for all 6<sup>th</sup> form students by the Civic Trust with support from the City Planning Officers and local architects and the interest expressed that this is a useful contribution suggested that it should be a regular feature in the city.

Again, many photographs had been archived at the Central Library.

The new crematorium had been completed, together with the new amenity block for Ruston Bucyrus, both buildings being commended by the Civic Trust on their practical design by the Trust.

The 34.7-acre site on Skellingthorpe Road is the home of the newly completed City School with accommodation for 700 students and the whole complex contains the latest teaching aids. Designed by the City Architect, the Civic Trust commended the design and layout.

The Civic Trust were also instrumental in providing a detailed survey of Lincoln's first Conservation Area, the Bailgate and Gordon Road.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1969 Highlights

The Civic Trust congratulated Page & Co , owners of 5 Lindum Road, for the attractive and decoration of the exterior of the premises.

When attention was drawn to the stables on Carholme, it was decided that this matter was outside the province of the Civic Trust

Many photographs of St Paul's Church had been taken for the archives before it was demolished.

A careful examination was made of the Planning Authorities explanatory booklet on the proposals to develop Birchwood into virtually a new town of some 20,000 residents. The Civic Trust subsequently made several proposals to the Panel Hearing, many of which were incorporated within the development brief,

The Corporation's Planning Brief for The Park area development and received general support from the Civic Trust.

Stage 3 of Tritton Road from Doddington Road to Newark Road was opened for use and now provided an excellent route from Dixon Street to North Hykeham

The proposed changes to the Barclay's Bank site on the High Street and the Civic Trust expressed concerns over this development and loss of the Victoria façade to the building.

The Corporation have designated 3 more Conservation Areas. The new Conservation Areas cover the Stonebow, Cornhill and St Benedict's Square

Over recent years funding for the refurbishment of Dernstall House had increased to £14,000 and C R Lucas & Son, who had undertaken the restoration of the Cardinal's Hat were engaged by the Trust to start the work.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1970 Highlights

The Civic Trust were pleased that work on the new bridge at the Brayford Head was at last under construction as part of the Inner Relief Road.

Regrettably both St Andrews' and St Martin's churches had been demolished

Battle's Corner, a significant landmark in the city had been demolished to make way for a three-story building containing shops with offices above. The Civic Trust were pleased that the architects would ensure that work undertaken would be in keeping with the surroundings as it is adjoining the north face of the Stonebow

In Silver Street the restoration of the Lincoln Co-operative Society's premises had been completed, and Park Street had been transformed by the newly erected Day Centre for the Care of the Elderly

At Bracebridge, the new road scheme at the junction of Newark Road and Brant Road has meant the removal of the familiar Fountain, whilst the old Bracebridge School has been demolished.

The Regal cinema on the High Street was demolished to be replaced by Littlewoods store and work on the Godfrey Holmes new office block in Monson Street.

The Civic Trust's ongoing campaign over parking facilities in the city was partly overcome when the new Danesgate multi-story car park was opened.

The Lincoln and District Water Board's offices in Harvey Street received the Civic Trust Award in recognition of its sensitive design,



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1971 Highlights

Completion of the restoration work on Dernstall House that had taken place over the last six years was now completed and provided a 'home' for the Civic Trust, although tenants were sought to share the building to defray expenses. The building also provided meeting rooms for hire as well as an opportunity to showcase the interior and the commendable work undertaken by the Civic Trust's contractors, C R Lucas & Son, providing an excellent example of this 15<sup>th</sup> century building. Following the official opening in July, over 1.500 people have visited the building in the year.

The Civic Trust had called for the redevelopment of the Central Area for several years and are pleased that the 'Sincil Street Scheme' architect's proposals will provide opportunities to develop the area with a sympathetic approach to the surrounding buildings.

Another familiar landmark has disappeared when St Peter & St Paul's in The Bail church was demolished and excavations are underway under the guidance of Miss Christina Coyler, the City's archaeologist.

Excavations on The Park in preparation for building a new Divisional Police HQ and the new Corporation Offices have revealed information from the Roman era as well later periods.

Work on the Thomas Cooper Memorial Baptist Church has started and the Civic Trust recognise that this will be a feature of the High Street for many years to come. The sensitive design is by Sir Frederick Gibbard, FRIBA.

The Civic Trust were critical of the Corporations plan for the Melville Street footbridge and rejected the plans for the redevelopment of St Marks.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1972 Highlights

The Civic Trust's initiative to call a meeting of all interested amenity societies to consider setting up a Conservation Area Committee. Following a well-supported public meeting this Committee is now established with a strong representation of residents and traders as well as amenity societies. Its primary object will be to make proposals and representations to the Planning Authority on all matters affecting the character, appearance and fabric of the Lincoln Conservation Area.

Full approval to the Broadgate /Unity Square scheme which is thought to be an admirable and the Trust also had the opportunity to examine the proposed developments to the Brayford Pool with which it was also in agreement.

The Civic Trust congratulated the City Engineers Department for the extensive use of flowers on roundabouts and elsewhere. This has brought a splash of colour at points where it is most needed, and it is hoped that this can be gradually extended and made part of more ambitious environmental schemes.

Dean's Green, facing James Street, looks somewhat unkempt with an empty wartime static water tank. The Corner cries out for landscaping and the Civic Trust hoped that even with a modest budget, much could be done to make a great deal of difference to this part of the city.

Plans to re-build 88 Bailgate – the Angel Inn – received detailed consideration and when completed it is hoped that a plaque can be placed on it to record this historic building.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1973 Highlights

If the proposal to locate bus stops had been allowed in Bank Street, it would have been necessary for it to have been widened and with a knock-on effect on the Georgian buildings and the St Swithin's Garden. The Civic Trusts objection to this development was accepted by the Corporation but it was hoped that a review of this area of the city could take place to provide guidance for future developments.

Planning permission for a new office block adjacent to Wigford Way which was supported by the Civic Trust but with reservations that buildings of this size and structure should be discontinued.

A Survey of Historic Buildings by a working party of the Civic Trust was well underway and considerable research work was being undertaken by the small group. The Survey was concentrated on the buildings in the Bail and Minster Yard area. Ultimately, it is hoped to publish the results of these very detailed surveys.

A temporary scheme of partial floodlighting of the Cathedral towers was introduced as part of Lincolns celebration of HM the Queen's Coronation in 1953. In subsequent years this has been set up again for Christmastide. The Civic Trust were delighted to learn that the Corporation had offered to celebrate the 9<sup>th</sup> centenary of the Cathedral by proving new and updated floodlighting of the whole building that could be used at any time, and this offer was readily accepted by the Dean and Chapter. The work was undertaken by the City Engineers Department with the assistance of Phillips who provided the lighting equipment. The Council have agreed to underwrite the annual cost as a feature of the city's skyline.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1974 Highlights

Local Government organisations means that instead of one local Authority to deal with on all matters, the Civic Trust now have to deal with the City of Lincoln Council as well as the new Lincolnshire County Council as each has different areas of responsibility in relation to heritage, planning, economic development and roads and highways.

The Civic Trust were invited to offer proposals and comment on the future of the Sincil Street area following the failure of the Town and City Project to gain the approval of the Ministry following a public inquiry.

Attention had been drawn to the City Council regarding the unsatisfactory replacement of roads and pavements following properties in the Strait and Steep Hill area being connected to North Sea gas.

Disquiet was expressed that no steps had been taken by the Trent Regional Health Authority to make available the plans for the proposed hospital extensions to the public in accordance with Government policy in relation to public consultation.

The Civic Trust received an appeal from residents seeking assistance in obtaining details of major housing developments in the Wragby Road / Nettleham Road area.

A Planning Application has been granted to build a shop and office building, including the demolition of two portions of the Close Wall at 8 Eastgate despite representations from the Civic Trust.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1975 Highlights

The City Council extended the Conservation Area to the south at St Mary le Wigford and the Central Station; to the west at Brayford and in the east to Broadgate so it now covers most of the city centre.

F W Woolworth's development of their site on the High Street was supported by the Trust; the public car parking is an advantage, but the riverside elevation shows little imagination and thought should be given to enhance the building's appearance on Waterside in keeping with the surroundings.

The Trust opposed the demolition of 211-215 High Street and rebuilding but a compromise in terms of retaining the existing elevations, rebuild at the rear of the premises and cautious treatment of the street frontage and display windows.

Plans for the development of the Birchwood Estate had been given in 1965 for council housing and a change of policy in 1968 to extend the area allocated, but now the Council were keen to amend the policy so that 2/3 of the site was to be allocated for private housing and the Civic Trust agreed with these proposals.

There are 210 Members and 20 Corporate Members of the Civic Trust, and 20 commemorative plaques had been installed on important historic buildings in the city.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1976 Highlights

Work on the Lincoln Survey of Houses continues with a great deal of background research and measurement of all dimensions. It is a long task but the small team are very thorough in their approach, and when completed it will serve as a valuable record of these ancient properties in the Close and the Bail. The Civic Trust very much acknowledge the support and encouragement that the owners and residents are giving to this project.

The Civic Trust were pleased that the City Council had re-roofed the Guildhall (Stonebow) to ensure that it continues to be weatherproof. The old roof which had been completed in 1790 during the Mayoralty of one John Parson, a Sadler by trade, had almost run its course. Records indicated that the roof timbers had last been treated for Death Watch Beetle at an earlier refurbishment in 1929. Thankfully, most of the timbers are in a safe condition with many more years of service in them.

During the course of repairs an interesting escutcheon had been discovered and inscribed 'John Parson Mayor 1790'. As a reminder of the old roof, this has been framed and mounted halfway up the main staircase. A new escutcheon has been cast inscribed; 'Cecil Percy Robinson Mayor 1976'.

The Lincoln Archaeological Trust under the expert guidance of their Director of Excavations, Miss Christina Coyler had a very busy year with much work being undertaken at many sites across the city and the Civic Trust are delighted that their earlier support for such a specialist group has been vindicated. A number of the Civic Trust members were also actively involved with those activities and three of them acted as Trustees



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1977 Highlights

Rebuilding the semi-derelict Ellis Mill on Mill Road was hailed by the Civic Trust as a worthy project to celebrate HM The Queen's Silver Jubilee. A sub-committee worked at acquiring the property from the owners. The owners had intended to demolish and replace with housing, but their plan didn't have the support of either the City Council or the Civic Trust and they lost their appeal against the decision at a Public Inquiry. The Civic Trust purchased the site and mill for £3,000. The residents offered to clear the site and volunteers with specialist knowledge, including Jon Sass of Brigg, on the work to be done. Project funding was through grants from the Manpower Services Commission with £8,400 and the City of Lincoln Council gave £, 2500. New windows and doors were constructed at the Lincoln College of Technology and the Art College. Mr Derek James made available the Cap, Shears and Windshaft were recovered from the old mill at Sturton-by-Stow and Mrs Elsie Eno offered the use of the machinery of Toynto-All-Saints mill.

The Civic Trust were keen that the Cornhill Market area should be developed in a sensitive manner and accepted that the New Market hotel, empty and no longer viable would be demolished. The warehouses in Stewarts Yard should be relocated and the Victorian open market canopy should be restored.

Urgent improvements to the boundary signs were requested by the Civic Trust as the existing ones had deteriorated and unattractive. The City Council responded, and the new signage was a welcoming invite to the city's many visitors.

Restoration of Frome Cottages in Michaelgate was welcomed by the Civic Trust together with the change of use of the fish shop on Waterside North to a Public House that had revealed some if the 15thcenture timberwork inside.



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## 1978 Highlights

The City Council had confirmed their ambition to excavate the West gate of the castle which had been a long-term policy. It is hoped that both the gateway and evidence of the earlier Roman entrance to the 'colonia' on the site will be accessible to visitors.

A continual project of the Civic Trust is to research and list all buildings of heritage value that are at risk of deterioration and regularly submit this to the City Council enabling them to monitor and take appropriate action where necessary.

The Civic Trust were invited to contribute to the discussions around the proposed developments in the Sobraon Barracks area off Burton Road.

A list of empty and derelict buildings was also submitted to the city Council by the Civic Trust. Such buildings can be a danger to public health if allowed to harbour vermin.

The Civic Trust were happy to learn that following their submissions for the redundant St Hughe's hostel on Newport it was to be used as the HQ by Lincolnshire and Humberside Arts as its new centre.

A derelict site on Michaelgate / Spring Hill had a number of different applications to develop for housing over the years and following advice from the Civic Trust, plans were finally agreed for a layout that was in sympathy with this area of the city.

Another redundant church, Mint Street Baptist Church, had been sympathetically altered into an antique retailer which was warmly supported by the Civic Trust

The Civic Trust reluctantly agreed to the demolition of St Martin's School in Hungate as the City Council were completely satisfied that the building couldn't be retained economically.



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## 1979 Highlights

Following earlier prompts to the City Council by the Civic Trust it was pleasing to note the re-paving and new signage in Castle Square and was warmly welcomed in this important part of the tourist area.

The Civic Trust considered the City Council's initial proposals for the Ripon Street General Improvement Area and welcomed this step along the road to revitalising another inner-city area.

Numerous complaints to the City Council regarding the unsightly condition of the buildings at the junction of Silver Street and Free School Lane by the Civic Trust have finally achieved some action as now builders are working on the development of more shops,

Celebrations were held by the Civic Trust upon the completion of the restoration of Ellis Mill and much interest in the project had been generated with the city and across the nation.

From time to time owners take it into their own hands to carry out work on buildings before permission has been granted, and the Civic Trust endeavour to monitor such matters, particularly in respect of those of heritage or amenity value.

When the White Hart Hotel made an application for a new tank room on the roof, the Civic Trust took great pains to ensure that it wouldn't be seen from the Cathedral precinct. When construction started, it was disturbing to find that it is visible from a distance and especially concerned that it interferes with the fine view from the car park of the 'Lion and Snake' in Bailgate.

The Civic Trust commented favourably on the City Council's proposals for the Clasketgate to Lower Westgate District Plan



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## 1980 Highlights

On 10<sup>th</sup> July the Civic Trust were presented with the Lincoln Civic Award by the Mayor, Councillor David Chambers, at a ceremony at the Guildhall in recognition of the work undertaken on the restoration of Ellis Mill, now an operational feature on the city skyline.

Having been the home to the Civic Trust since its completion in 1969, an opportunity to sell Dernstall House, 33/34 The Strait. It had always been mindful that once refurbished, it would use the any funds released by sale would be used to look at other projects within the city that would benefit from a similar project.

The City Council agreed to lease St Mary's Guildhall in the High Street to the Civic Trust. This magnificent 12<sup>th</sup> century building bought by public subscription in 1937 is unique in so many ways. Much restoration work will have to take place in future years but it will form a new office base from which to conduct Civic Trust activities and a focus on developing the refurbishment of the buildings.

The Ancient Houses Survey, an immense and specialist project, is moving into the enormous task of preparation of material for publication. The value of its work is demonstrated in its continued use by the City Planning Department and by private architects involved in alterations to listed buildings. This is another ongoing positive achievement to the credit of the Civic Trust.

The closure and demolition of St Marks Station, including the removal of the railway track and level crossings, would be a significant benefit to traffic movement within the city. The Civic Trust welcomed discussions on the future use of this key site in the city and awaited the outcome of the Public Inquiry with interest,



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1981 Highlights

Thanks to the Lincolnshire County Council who have generously provided office space at their Newland site for the use of the Civic Trust following the sale of Dernstall House.

Ellis Mill continued to reflect credit on the Civic Trust's bold initiative in 1977 by reviving another seemingly lost cause. Thanks to new volunteers coming forward Ellis Mill has gone into business as a source of stone ground flour and has provided a great tourist attraction at weekends. The County Council's proposal to launch a Windmill Trust is still under consideration, but in the meantime thousands of visitors have enjoyed this new tourist feature, and it is interesting to note the number who have been attracted by the sails in motion from the outlying areas.

A formal Lease of St Mary's Guildhall from the City Council was entered into and Mr R Pilling was appointed as the Civic Trust's architect for the restoration and adaptation of the whole group of buildings.

Based on the experience several years ago the Civic Trust were encouraged to undertake creating a paved landscaped public garden at St Martin's Churchyard to a design by Mr J S Anderson, the City Council's Director of Planning and Architecture. The work was carried out for the Civic Trust by DB Civil Engineering Ltd and Landscape Garden Construction (Navenby) Ltd.

Continued photographic recording of the new and old buildings in the city continued with these being added to the Civic Trust's collection at the City Library.

There were 247 Members and 14 Corporate Member of the Civic Trust at the end of the year.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1982 Highlights

The 99-year lease on St Mary's Guildhall granted by the City Council to the Civic Trust, reflects the importance of the future of one of the city's most important buildings. Investigative work undertaken by the Lincoln Archaeological Trust and provided opportunities to examine fabric of the standing structure and to test certain problems by limited excavation. A small trial hole dug into the courtyard showed that there were probably two periods of Roman construction before the resettlement of this area in the early medieval period. Much of the survey work consisted of careful removal of modern accretions and detailed recording of ancient architectural features discovered.

Continued work on the Survey of Ancient Houses provided an ever-increasing knowledge of many unique buildings and the changes that had been made to them over very many years.

Another successful year for Ellis Mill with week-end openings and 950 paid for entrance visitors and 2 ½ tons of wheat were ground producing a profit of £562 – a margin of about a third. The hard work undertaken by the Honorary Miller, Mr Barry Brook and his assistants in achieving this result was acknowledged by the Civic Trust. The Mill featured in the press, on TV and has welcomed parties of schoolchildren. The activities at the Mill prompted the formation of the Lincolnshire Mills Group with 64 people attending the first meeting, sponsored by the Civic Trust, and is open to those with an interest in either wind or waterpower.

The Castle Hotel and Gordon Road developments have been an impact in the area and welcomed by the Civic Trust as well as work on preserving the empty and almost derelict No 1, Northgate, formerly a 16<sup>th</sup> century residence and latterly the home to the Cathedral Choir School and more recently, as a private girls club and institute. It had been vacated due to the proposed Cathedral Relief Road.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1983 Highlights

The two cannon that were formerly outside the City and County Museum have been restored and mounted and now guard the East Gate of the Castle. The impetus was given by the Civic Trust; funding provided by the City Council and workmanship undertaken by young men under the Government's Manpower scheme which provided expert supervision and with the transport help of Simons - a good example of co-operation. A small ceremony to commemorate this event was held at which the Civic Trust were represented.

The Civic Trust were invited to the ceremony when the new floodlighting for the East Gate and Observatory Tower of the Castle was switched on.

The City Council had agreed with the Civic Trusts to floodlight Ellis Mill which will illuminate its already well-known position on Lincoln's skyline.

The Civic Trust also pursued the City Council in respect of the Westgate carpark toilet facilities; the Mint Wall; riverside lighting between High Bridge and Mayfield Bridge; the condition of the wall of the pavilion at Temple Gardens and the continued dereliction of No1 Northgate.

The St Mary's Guildhall Restoration Appeal was launched by the Mayor, Councillor Colin North at the Stonebow Guildhall. The many guests heard him warmly commend the Civic Trust setting in motion the restoration of this 12<sup>th</sup> century building and announced that the Department of the Environment had given the project national backing and awarded a grant of £100,000,

The Civic Trust were honoured by a visit from HRH the Duke of Gloucester in his role as President of the East Midlands Tourist Board and was shown around St Mary's Guildhall's derelict site by Mr Pilling, the architect engaged to oversee the restoration project.



# Lincoln Civic Trust

## 1984 Highlights

The first phase of the St Mary's Guildhall development had been completed with the renovation of the southern structure facing Sibthorpe Street and provided a fine renovated building, including kitchen and toilet facilities, for the use of St Peter at Gowts Parochial Church Council as a Church Hall. As stated at the official opening on 16th June by Mr Carlisle MP, he stated that 'This medieval building has been brought back to life' and congratulated the Civic Trust for their contributory work towards the completion of this part of the complex which was now being put to constant community use. The next phase of the development was again undertaken by the Community Enterprise Agency, as well as specialist contractors, to refurbish the West Wall that would ultimately provide a Hall, Office and domestic facilities for the use of the Civic Trust. Fundraising by the Appeal Committee had so far provided some £60,000 towards the project.

The first instalments of 'The Survey of Ancient Houses in Lincoln' covering Priorygate to Pottergate was published in October, with financial support from the Civic Trust as well as the Department of the Environment. Those who read this publication is indebted to those who have worked on the project since 1969 and will look forward the next two fascicules, concerning Minster Yard, being published.

Much work had been completed in the Sincil Street area since 1976 when the Lincoln Corn Exchange & Market Co Ltd was purchased by COSIM, the joint company of the Lincoln Co-operative Society Ltd and Simons Construction Group Ltd and the Civic Trust recognise the modern approach to this important shopping district in the city.