

Carlisle and District Civic Trust

Autumn 2015 Newsletter

50th Anniversary Year



A roundup of events by the chairman in this our 50th Anniversary Year

It doesn't seem like two minutes since I was writing the 'Spring Newsletter', yet here we are with the 'Autumn Newsletter'. This newsletter is specially extended as it looks at things the Trust has done, is doing, and will be doing in the future. It also contains an invitation to the AGM at 2pm on the 25th August at the New Waterton Hall.

This year is a very special year for the Trust. It is the fiftieth anniversary year of its founding in 1965. The trust was originally formed to save the Tithe Barn from demolition. The Tithe Barn or the Tithe Barn of the Augustinian Priory of St Mary's to give its full title was built by Thomas Gondibour, Prior from 1465 to 1507, and is now a grade 1 listed building.

It fell into serious disrepair and Carlisle was in real danger of losing this unique and important historic building. However, the Carlisle and District Civic Trust was formed in 1965 to take up the fight to save it. The restoration of the barn won a national civic trust award and saved this magnificent building for the city.

The vicar and the people of St Cuthbert's, the church alongside the barn, decided that, if suitably converted, it could be used as a parish hall. The restoration work cost £35,000 and the Tithe Barn is now St Cuthbert's Church Hall and is in constant use for this and many other purposes. It is a real asset to St Cuthbert's and the city.

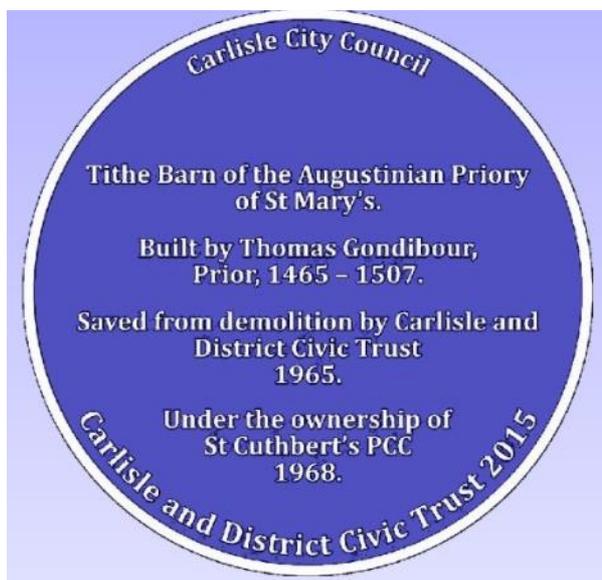
Blue plaque for the Tithe Barn

The Carlisle and District Civic Trust commissioned a plaque to be made and fixed to the barn to commemorate its saving by the Trust.

The unveiling of the plaque was carried out by the mayor of the city of Carlisle, Mr Steven Layden, on Monday 22 June. The plaque is mounted quite high on the gable wall and the mayor said he was “concerned that he might have to ‘abseil’ to do the unveiling”.

Where such buildings or links with historical events remain, the Trust can recognise or underline their importance with the award and mounting of a wall plaque. There are a number of plaques in Carlisle and these represent a permanent reminder of a special significance, enriching local history and providing an informal means of future protection. The Civic Trust is well known for making local, regional and national awards and we believe that good work should be recognised and commended appropriately.

The Trust would encourage all residents of Carlisle and its visitors to engage with what is good about our locality, and to find ways of reinforcing local distinctiveness and retaining what is good about where we live and work, and how we can plan forward for the next 50 years to make it even better.



The plaque fitted to the Tithe Barn



John Kelsall (Committee member) fixing the plaque. “You can see why the Mayor had concerns about having to abseil”.

50th Anniversary Gala night

Probably the most glittering event of the year for the Trust was the ‘50th Anniversary Gala Night’ on the 17th July. The event was held appropriately enough at the Tithe Barn, where it all began.

Members of the Trust were joined by honoured guests and speakers.

Mrs Claire Hensman

Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Cumbria

Right Reverend James Newcome

Bishop of Carlisle & Honorary President of the Carlisle and District Civic Trust

Mr Steven Layden

Mayor of the City of Carlisle

Reverend Keith Teasdale

Vicar of St Cuthbert's Church

Mr. John Kelsall

Architect & committee member of the Carlisle and District Civic Trust.

Mr A T Jolley

*Chairman of the
Carlisle and District Civic Trust.*

Details of the speeches Mrs Hensman Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Cumbria and Mr Kelsall Carlisle and District Civic Trust Committee Member will soon be available on the Trust's Website.

Everyone was greeted with a glass of wine or a soft drink while they listened to the music of the 'Border Concert Band' and mingled and talked. The Reverend Teasdale asked everyone to be seated and Bishop James said grace. The caterers for the event were the Castlegate Coffee House, Castle Street, Carlisle.

After the meal Reverend Teasdale asked the honoured guests to speak in turn. He ended by telling a story of him inadvertently making the local population think he was a ghost as he walked along West Walls dressed as 'Henry the Eighth'. He did say it only happened once while he was appearing in a theatrical production. I believe the production took place in the Tithe Barn?



*John Kelsall was the first to speak.
He then presented a certificate of lifetime honorary membership of the Trust' to Ian Turnbull. Peter Pickles, who has also received a lifetime honorary membership of the Trust, is currently experiencing ill health and could not attend. Peter's certificate will be delivered to him at home.
Both men were members of the team when the Trust was formed back in 1965.*

Patrick Horton also received a certificate of lifetime honorary membership of the Trust.

Patrick joined the Trust shortly after it was formed and remained with the Trust in many roles until his recent retirement.

Without these members there would not be a Civic Trust in Carlisle today.

At the end of the evening Terry Jolley, chairman of the Trust, proposed a vote of thanks to the honoured guests after fist falling foul of the etiquette of who do you thank first. A Lord-Lieutenant, a bishop or a city mayor!

He also thanked Patrick Horton as Patrick had set up a 'PowerPoint type presentation' of Carlisle's history at the entrance to the main hall. The presentation was a superb piece of work and most of the people on the top table admitted to watching it while eating their meals.

Terry also thanked the committee for all the energy they had expended organising the event and invited everyone



to the next 'Gala Night', which will be to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Trust and will be on the 15th July 2065, 7 for 7:30 prompt!

To conclude Terry thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a safe journey home.

Annual coach trip: Lowther Castle and Gardens 7th June

In June members and guests enjoyed a trip to Lowther Castle and its gardens. On arrival we were shown round the castle and the extensive gardens. We had our own guide who everyone agreed was excellent.

After a specially prepared meal in the restaurant, we once more visited the gardens taking the opportunity to explore them on our own.

Summer visits to local places of interest.

Instead of a meeting this month, on Tuesday 12 May we had a guided walking tour of Carlisle entitled "Every Building Has a Story" led by Kathleen Churchill, a Cumbria Blue Badge Guide and Civic Trust member.

Despite it being a little breezy it remained dry while we walked round the central area of Carlisle, starting at Tullie House, then to the Cathedral Gatehouse, the entrance to the College on Paternoster Row, followed by a visit to the ex-State Management Scheme Headquarters, now Bookends, which has lots of photographs of Carlisle pubs (past and present) in the Foyer. Kathleen gave us an interesting and informative view of old Carlisle. Despite many of us being natives of the City we all learned something new that we didn't know before!

Who knew that House of Fraser had some lovely old black and white photographs of its original incarnation as Robinsons, framed and on the staircase for everyone to see?! We wandered down Long Lane, and up Fisher Street, through the Lanes, on to Lowther Street to look at the Apple Tree Pub, then back through the Lanes and Robinsons..... er House of Fraser, and ended at the Tithe Barn.

2015/2016 Winter Lectures

All evening lectures are held at Waterton Hall commencing at 7:30pm. Doors open and complimentary tea or coffee and biscuits are available from 7pm when members can chat about current matters.

The talks for the next three months are:-

Tuesday 15 September. Ian Tyler, will talk about Mining in Cumbria

Tuesday 20 October Steve Matthews of Bookends will talk about the Cumbrian Poet Josiah Relph of Sebergham,

Tuesday 17 November Zoe Sutton, Rural Development Officer of Carlisle City Council will talk about the new initiative to develop a 'Local List' of non-designated heritage assets in Carlisle and surrounding district.

The current committee of the Carlisle and District Civic Trust are:

<i>Terry Jolley</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	
<i>Janis Jeffery</i>	<i>Honorary Secretary</i>	
<i>Carol Donnelly</i>	<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>	
<i>Mr J L. Kelsall</i>	<i>Architect & Committee member</i>	
<i>Dr Lindsey Winterton</i>	<i>Committee member</i>	
<i>Frank Jeffery</i>	<i>Committee member</i>	
<i>Jenny Smith</i>	<i>Committee member</i>	
<i>Roger Higgins</i>	<i>Urban Design and Conservation Officer</i>	<i>Co-opted committee member</i>
<i>Alistair Mc Gregor</i>	<i>Architect.</i>	<i>Co-opted committee member</i>

Carlisle and District Conservation Area Advisory Committee

The Trust has a representative who sits on this committee and therefore the Trust has a direct say in planning applications in the Conservation Areas.

Local List Development

Zoe Sutton, Rural Development Officer, Carlisle City Council, has invited The Civic Trust to attend a Local List Steering Group Meeting in the Civic Centre, on the 6th August, initially to participate in the development of the nomination form design. Committee members Jenny Smith and John Kelsall will attend representing the Trust. The local listings are non-statutory listings of buildings/places important to local communities within the district. It is intended that a local listing will be a material consideration in any application for planning consent to alter or demolish. It looks as though the Trust will become involved in vetting the buildings and places nominated – more news to come.

Campaigning Sub-Committee

A group of three committee members have been set up during the year to target particular important buildings under threat and to ensure lessons are learnt by appropriate authorities when important buildings or spaces have been damaged or lost.

A selection procedure has been drawn up to assist in focussing where our limited time and resources should be concentrated. Also representations have been made during the year in respect of the City Centre Draft Development Framework, and continue against the demolition of Suttle House (Wigton Road) by a developer, and the neglect being shown towards the Central Plaza Hotel.

If any member considers any buildings or spaces to be at risk of undesirable change or threat, contact a committee member and these will be considered by the campaigning sub-committee.

Summary

Over the past 50 years the Trust has remained true to its ideals of encouraging high standards of architecture and town planning in Carlisle and its neighbouring districts. It has stimulated public interest in, and care for, the beauty, history and character of the area of the city and its surroundings. It has encouraged the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest, pursuing these ends by means of meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications, and other forms of instruction and publicity. With your help the Trust is set to continue into the future. The committee of the Trust thank you all for your help and participation in the past, over this special year, and for the years to come.

*Terry Jolley
Chairman
August 2015*