

Newsletter

Spring 2018



Introduction from the chairman.

You could be forgiven for wondering whether spring has actually arrived yet. Winter has already lulled us into a false sense of security on more than one occasion by allowing some beautiful Spring like days, then cruelly revealing it still has an icy grip up its sleeve with not one, but two so called 'Beasts from the East'. However, there are signs that spring is fighting back and it is time to look forward to the lighter nights, the buds forming on the trees followed by those wonderful clean green leaves.

Now is the time to look forward to a new year of events to be organised by the Trust and look back at what the Trust has been doing over the winter period.

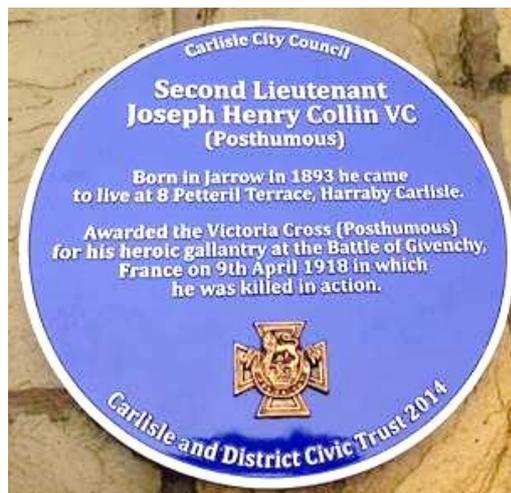
Blue plaques.

The Carlisle and District Civic Trust erects "Blue Plaques" to commemorate noteworthy people, buildings or events using a strict criterion. This criterion can be found on the Trusts website.

With the financial support of the Carlisle City Council the Trust was proud to commission and erect Blue plaques to commemorate the cities two Victoria Cross awardees from the Great War. A dedication ceremony of commemoration for Lieutenant Commander Edward Courtney Boyle VC was organised by the Trust and took place on the 10th November 2014.

The Trust also commissioned and erected a Blue plaque in commemoration of Second Lieutenant Collin VC (Posthumous).

A dedication ceremony of commemoration for Second Lieutenant Collin VC (Posthumous).was held at 8 Petteril Terrace on Monday 9 April 2018 exactly 100 years after his death in action.



Blue Plaque commemoration for Second Lieutenant Joseph Henry Collin VC.

Mike Little writes:

On the 9th April 1918 Second Lieutenant Joseph Henry Collin, a day before his 25th birthday was killed in action near Givenchy, France in the Great War. He had given the ultimate sacrifice attempting to defend a pressing position with his men against superior numbers, by storming an enemy machine gun nest, knocking it out of action from close range, then on seeing another, stormed the second firing machine gun position where he fell fatally wounded.

For his actions that day he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

His citation read; 'For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty and self-sacrifice in action' and was described in the newspapers of the day as; 'The heroic self-sacrifice of 2nd Lieutenant Collin was a magnificent example to all' He was buried at Veille-Chapelle New Military Cemetery, France.

Joseph Collin lived at 8th Petteril Terrace, Carlisle, he was an Assistant Salesman at Hepworth's the tailors on English Street, Carlisle. After recruitment into the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders in 1915 and following promotion to Sergeant, he was selected for a commission as 2nd Lieutenant into the Kings Own Lancaster Regiment. It was there he was to make his mark in the annals of British military history; Joseph Henry Collin VC.

A ceremony of commemoration was organised by the City Council and took place on 9th April 2018 exactly one hundred years after the death of Joseph Henry Collin VC. The City Council was represented by the Mayoress of Carlisle, Councillor Trish Vasey. The Civic Trust, members of the family of Lieutenant Collin and several branches of the armed services were also represented.

The 2017/2018 Evening talks/lectures

Tuesday 17 October 2017 – The History of Rickerby

Stephen White (from Carlisle Library and local historian) –told us about the History of Rickerby which sparked considerable interest and discussion from Trust members and members of the public.

Tuesday 21 November 2017 - Peace Trails.

Mark Richards again gave us a most interesting talk. This time he told us about his new project “Peace Trails”

Mark is an artist, Roman Wall expert and author of many walking guides.

Tuesday 16th January 2018 – Railway heritage

A first for the trust was the showing of a DVD rather than a speaker. The DVD gave an insight into the Railway heritage of this country and was particularly relevant as Carlisle had and still does have close connections to the railway.

Tuesday 20th February 2018 - A tale of two bridges

John Kelsall (Vice chairman) gave a very interesting and most relevant talk, in the light of the recent flooding, on Sir Robert Smirk and the two bridges across the Eden.

Tuesday 20th March 2018 – The Old Military Road

Local historian John Mather, gave a most interesting talk on the Old Military Road which contained several surprises. John is a committee member of the Carlisle and District Civic Trust, an author and regularly appears on the radio and television.

Tuesday 17th April – Tuesday 17th April 2018 - Preservation and Conservation of Historic Buildings, with particular emphasis on Carlisle.

Peter Messenger gave a talk on the “Preservation and Conservation of Historic Buildings” with particular emphasis on Carlisle. This was a particularly relevant talk, bearing in mind the controversial issue of empty buildings within our city centre.

Panel of experts – Discussion evening/‘Question time’.

There has clearly been considerable interest in the evening talks as evidenced by the number of questions and comments at the end of the talks.

As a result the committee feel that it would be advantageous to assemble a panel of experts with relevant knowledge of numerous topics who can be questioned by the Trust membership. This would be in place of a speaker that evening.

For this to work we need to know what topics you would like to discuss.

We don’t need to know your exact questions, just the topics.

For example you may wish to question the panel about the City Plaza Hotel, Royal Hotel, Railway Inn, Horse and Farrier, etc. etc. For this you might put ‘I would like to question the panel regarding the Preservation and Conservation of Historic Buildings’.

Maybe you would like to have your say regarding the Chatsworth Square/Portland Square Conservation Areas, Botchergate, etc.etc. It’s up to you.

Please give you’re headings to any committee member through the Summer and we will try to assemble a relevant panel of experts for the ‘Question time’ in the Autumn.

Venue for the evening talks

It is that time again when we need to consider the venue for the future evening talks.. The venues will be chosen for their location with regard to members arriving by bus, on foot or by car, their facilities and their suitability’s for the talks.

Members are asked to forward suggestions regarding what they consider are suitable venues to any committee member or leave a note at:

Phoenix Architecture & Planning.
28 Abbey Street.
Carlisle.
CA3 8TX.

Recent venues have been: The Old Town Hall, The Church of Scotland Rooms on Chapel Street and the Morton Community Centre.

Flooding in Carlisle

Part of constitution of the Carlisle and District Civic Trust reads. 'To stimulate public interest in and care for beauty, history and character of the area of the city and its surroundings'. Clearly flooding can have a severe and devastating effect.

John Kelsall vice chairman of the Carlisle and District Civic Trust wrote this open letter to the Carlisle City Council in his other role of:

Chair

Flood Action Group.

It is evident that although we have engaged in discussion with Senior Council Members and Officers about the flood risk posed by the Eden Bridge and developments on the southern flood plain our warnings appear to have fallen upon deaf ears.

The Carlisle Corporation deliberately occupied the flood plain for development from the mid 19th Century by first tipping-on then building- on the ox bow lake of the Eden's south channel. This area includes much of The Sands Centre, Civic Centre, Corporation Road, Magistrates Courts, Police Station, Fire Station, Hardwicke Circus and the Malt Shovel (Ristorante Adriano) as well as a number of commercial developments the construction of which has compounded this serious error affecting the conveyance of the Eden River in flood in almost every decade since. When will the lessons of history and engineering advice be heeded?

Recent presentations to the Council Leader, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Scrutiny Committee, amongst others, have clearly explained that the designer of the A7 Eden Bridge, Sir Robert Smirke, did not only design the bridge with 5 fully open arches but also a further 5 arches of similar size to a causeway to convey the River Eden in flood when it reverts to a preferred straight line flow characteristic. It is our belief that the current bridge, on its own, is insufficient even in fully open section to convey the river quickly enough to prevent it backing up the flow and diverting water across Hardwicke Circus etc. which is its chosen route. It is clear, therefore, that the flood defences in this area are incorrectly positioned forcing the Eden into a dangerous "pinch-point". The damming effect this creates not only spills over and around the bridge locally, causing considerable disruption, but also has the effect of raising the river peak level which compromises further the emergence of the River Petteril which then has a knock-on effect at Botcherby Bridge which becomes less effective at reducing levels at Melbourne Park.

In our on-going dialogue with the Environment Agency we have questioned the computer modelling at the bridge which suggested there was only a 0.5m differential between upstream and downstream sides at flood peak either side of the Eden Bridge when the Desmond flood was at its height. Eye witness testimony and photographic evidence suggest this to be no less than 1.5m and possibly much more. The EA's consultants are yet to report back upon re-investigation of this evidence so it is

foolhardy in the extreme to undertake any physical concept design commitments, even in draft, of an expansion to the Sands Centre until design flow rates and levels can be established with suitable additional contingency and firm design criteria. Indeed management of the flood risk to the City may determine that the functions currently served by the Sands Centre and surrounding buildings may require re-location in any event.

We fear that the news, as recently reported in the media, of the Council voting to push ahead with this scheme without a clear caveat to this issue is the potential birth of yet another public act of folly that will considerably increase the risk to the City of yet more major flooding. We urge the Council to step back from the brink of what could be a very expensive and grave error of aspiration with far reaching consequences.

Events to look forward to over the Summer.

We have arranged the following visits for this summer:

Wednesday 23rd May - Visit to St. Wilfred's church Warwick Bridge

This is a lovely church and well worth a visit.

Please meet at the church at 10:20 am.

Cost: Members £3 Guests £5. All moneys collected will be donated to church funds.

After the visit we are hoping to move on to 'Sally's' for lunch please pay for your own on the day

June - Private lecture in Tullie House on Tuesday 19th June at 10.30am

The visit will include a private lecture in Tullie House by a curator on the Roman collection.

Cost £6 members and £7.50 for Guests.

Lunch is available in the Tullie House café at your own expense.

Saturday 14th July - Annual coach trip 'New Lanark Mills World Heritage Site'.

New Lanark Mills is a Unesco world heritage site and a wonderful place, with an amazing history.

The whole area was developed as a mill and a town by Robert Owen. Once inside, you get to see a mill in operation, a cute little 10 minute ride, narrated by Annie Mcleod, one of the children working there. You will see Robert Owens house, the schoolroom, the village store and mill workers houses over 2 eras, the 1820s, and 1930s.

There is also a nice nature walk, up to the Falls of Clyde.

Please meet outside the Shepherds (Auctioneer) on Rosehill at 9.00. The cost to members is £29 and £32 for guests. The price includes coach travel to and from the venue, a guided tour and lunch. (soup and sandwich).

Anyone wishing to go on any of the outings should inform Jan 01228 543714 to book places, even if making their own way to the venue.

The booking form for the - Annual coach trip to New Lanark Mills World Heritage is at the end of this Newsletter.

For all outings names must be given in advance and paid for at the time of booking.

The current committee consists of:

- Terry Jolley Chairman
- J L. Kelsall Architect & Vice Chairman
- Janis Jeffery Honorary Treasurer
- Jenny Smith Joint Honorary Secretary
- John Mather Joint Honorary Secretary & Website co-ordinator
- Frank Jeffery Committee member
- Mike Little Committee member
- Alistair Mc Gregor Architect & co-opted member
- Roger Higgins Urban Design & Conservation Officer.
co-opted committee member

Two new members have recently joined the committee and will start attending meetings shortly.

On behalf of the committee of the Carlisle and District Trust, I should like to thank you all for your support in the past and look forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming events throughout this our fifty-third year.

*A T Jolley.
Chairman Carlisle and District Civic Trust.*

Annual coach trip to New Lanark Mills World Heritage Site. Saturday 14th July

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Returnable booking slip for : Annual coach trip 2018
Saturday 14th July - Annual coach trip 'New Lanark Mills World Heritage Site'.

I should like tickets for the Annual coach trip to New Lanark Mills World Heritage Site.

..... members at £29.0 each and..... non-members at £32.0each Total £.....

My name and address is.....
.....
.....

..... Post code.....

Please attach your cheque made payable to 'Carlisle and District Civic Trust' to this slip and send or take it to:
Phoenix Architecture & Planning
28 Abbey Street
Carlisle
CA3 8TX