

Introducing some new faces

The Trust is always looking for volunteers to join the Council. Our most recent members tell us what made them get involved and how they see the future of the Trust.

Louise French



Louise was born in Louth and has lived in the town and surrounding villages for all her 30 years and currently works as an estate agent. Louise joined the Louth Civic Trust Council as Minutes Secretary in 2008.

Keith Walmsley



Keith Walmsley grew up in Kent and attended university at Bristol and Cambridge. For many years, he taught Law at Christ's College, Cambridge. He now practises as a Barrister from Chambers in London and York, specialising in medical law.

"Our town has a real charm and I believe that it is the smallest of details that can make the biggest difference; an original boot scraper still in situ or a well preserved original front door can really add to the character of a building and give us something to be proud of. I have a particular fondness for shop fronts, especially the individual console brackets which really give a shop its own personality and Louth has an abundance of well preserved shop frames. I do also feel however that there is room for the modern too"

In 1977 he bought the redundant church in a village near Louth and, several substantial building projects later he divides his time between central London and the Wolds, always accompanied by his Golden Retriever, Clixby.

"I have gradually developed a strong attraction to Louth because of its humanity and lack of pretension. For me the Civic Trust is an important way of maintaining the special qualities of this very special town."

Plans for Conservation Area Conference

On 23rd June 2009, English Heritage launched their Conservation Areas at Risk campaign with the first ever national survey of conservation areas, looking at how many are at risk and the top 10 threats which included, plastic windows and doors, poorly maintained roads and pavements and street clutter in the top three. This national campaign has inspired plans for a regional look at the challenges faced by conservation areas. Louth Civic Trust is currently seeking partnership organisations to support the event and if anyone would like to get involved they should contact Jean Howard.

Future Events:

The following events organised by the Louth Naturalist's Antiquarian and Literary Society may be of interest to members, for further information please call the Museum on Tel. 01507 601211

Saturday 29 May 5pm: 90th Anniversary Walk along the Course of the Louth Flood

Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 June 10am-5pm: Secondhand Book Sale

(Lincolnshire book and postcards, other topographical and historical books)

Sunday 11 July: Edwardian Family Fun Day

Saturday 7 August 7.30pm: Louth Navigation in Operation, Illustrated Talk and Museum Tour by Stuart Sizer

September Exhibition: John Cresswell's Sketches and Sonnets

Now Available Online

As part of our campaign to encourage a wider interest in our townscape we have two new publications available in hard copy and online. Visit www.louthcivictrust.org for information on what we do, how to get involved, contacts and links.

Andrew Shaw



Andrew was born in Cleethorpes and moved to Tathwell, 3 miles outside of Louth in 1994. Three years ago he moved into Louth.

"Walking the family dog around the streets of Louth and looking up to observe the buildings and architecture, made me aware of the real historic beauty of Louth, and the outstanding charm of the conservation area.

I joined the Civic Trust to increase my knowledge and appreciation of our historic environment and help preserve this charm that gives Louth its unique appeal.

My belief is that every building located within conservation area of Louth, has a particular historic influence on this character, irrespective of the buildings monetary value. This influence should be preserved to guide proposed new developments and refurbishments within the conservation area."

And Saying Thank You

David Skinner has decided to retire from the Trust's Council after over fifteen years of unwavering support. The Trust would like to take the opportunity to thank him for his time, effort and support for the aims of the Trust.

Future Issues

Louth Civic Trust News will be published twice yearly and is available by post or by email, if you would like to save the trust money and receive your copy electronically then please email us at enquiries@louthcivictrust.org

The Trust would like to encourage members to write articles for the newsletters, if you would like to contribute please speak contact Kathryn Laverack via kathryn@fsgdesign.co.uk



LCT News

campaigning, education and action

Issue One April 2010

Message from The Chairman



With spring finally in the air and a general election looming it is certainly a time of change.

This is also true for Louth Civic Trust with changes both locally and nationally. Locally we are launching a website and rebranding our organization. We are also producing information leaflets and resurrecting our bi-annual newsletter. On the campaigning front we are bringing back by popular demand, Grot Spots, with the help of the Louth Target.

Last year we witnessed the demise of our parent organization, The Civic Trust. However, I was delighted with the news of the creation of the new national organization, Civic Voice. My wife Kathryn and I were pleased to attend the launch in London on 17th April. You will find reports of this and more contained in our first issue of LCT news.

James Laverack
Chairman, Louth Civic Trust

In this Issue:

- Launch of new Civic Voice
- Grot Spot Campaigns
- Heritage advice for Town Centre Partnership
- Campaigning Education Action
- Plans for Conservation Area Conference

Signs of the Times

"Street nameplates are just one of those many little things that contribute to the unique historical atmosphere of the Conservation Area."

After ten years of research, collaboration, fundraising and above all perseverance, Louth's Conservation Area finally saw the re-instatement of its lost street nameplates, recast to the original Victorian designs.

The project was spearheaded by Trust members Jean Howard and John Stainton, following in the footsteps of Louth Panorama artist, William Brown who campaigned for the original street names to be installed in the 1850s.



Image supplied by Fowler And Holden Ltd, Grimsby showing some of the individual wooden letter and plaque patterns created for the project.

LCT's campaign presented some major difficulties, including the absence of original patterns or moulds and the need to find a company capable of using highly skilled sand casting techniques.

John Stainton's research into the typeface revealed some interesting signature letters and a visit to The Type Museum in London, with its records and patterns spanning centuries of type making, confirmed it was unique to Louth. "The help I received from the Type Museum was invaluable to the project and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for their advice and information" said John Stainton.

A survey was carried out to list existing and missing plates across the Conservation



Area, with some being identified from archive material. Each letter from the missing signs then had to be re-drawn, effectively recreating the original typeface.

Foundries across the country were researched and contacted, bringing to light Fowler and Holden Ltd, a Grimsby based company. With the exception of changes in the sand used, the process at Fowler and Holden is identical to the one used to create the original signs in 1853. Each letter and sign is hand-crafted in wood, a process that takes a five to six year apprenticeship to learn.

With the design and production arranged, funding came from a collaboration between East Lindsey District Council, Louth Town Council and The Gatherums Regeneration Partnership.

Commenting on the work, Jean Howard said, "Street nameplates are just one of those many little things that contribute to the unique historical atmosphere of the Conservation Area and getting the names back on the streets is incredibly satisfying. It would however, be nice if people were able to appreciate the time and effort put in to make sure the signs are just as they should be."

Launch of new CIVIC VOICE

The Civic Voice, the new national body for the civic movement was officially launched on Saturday 17 April. The event was attended by over 200 representatives from civic societies across the country. Along with Civic Voice supporter Griff Rhys Jones, LCT Chairman James Laverack was there to find out how the new organisation will help shape our future.



Civic Societies are part of a movement comprising over 1,000 local organisations and 250,000 members but after the closure of the national Civic Trust in April 2009, they were left without a national voice. The following June, with support from organisations such as The National Trust and contributions from civic societies, the Civic Society Initiative was launched. Three months of debate, discussions, public meetings, online debates and a major survey involving over 800 societies, resulted in the presentation of a special report 'Own the Future' to the October 2009 convention, the first gathering of civic societies for over 30 years.

The report defined a clear need for effective and influential civic societies, now more than ever before. It discovered a need for powerful champions to defend their local spaces, to celebrate their history and to shape their future. It highlighted the awareness that the forces that shape our local areas depend as much on national priorities, policy and funding as they do on our local decisions. Civic societies were also looking for support and advice on how best to make a difference locally and to strengthen themselves with new volunteers and sources of funding. The result of the consultations was the launch of the Civic Voice a new independent charity.

Speaking at the launch Griff Rhys Jones said, "Civic Voice is being launched as the



nation debates the future and communities are campaigning for more control over what happens to their local area. With three in four people identifying something valued locally which is at risk, the time is ripe for a powerful new grassroots voice."

The Council for the Louth Civic Trust is proposing to join Civic Voice. This will involve an annual cost of £1.50 per member with a one off payment of £1.50 for each life membership. In addition to the benefits for the Trust as a whole, each member will be eligible for the offer of a free day access pass to the National Trust which can be transferred to family or friends. **For further information visit the Civic Voice website at www.civicvoice.org.uk**

"...the time is ripe for a powerful new grassroots voice"

Griff Rhys Jones gives a passionate appeal for support for the Civic Voice

Grot Spots are Back

By popular demand the 'Grot Spots' are back! Louth Civic Trust, with the help of the Louth Target will each month announce a 'Grot Spot' in the Louth area. We hope that this name and shame approach will result in something being done.

The first Grot Spot of 2010 is one of the main pedestrian thoroughfares into the centre of Louth – Pawnshop Passage. Members of Louth Civic Trust have repeatedly requested

that this, along with other areas of the Town Centre form part of a weekly cleaning rota however, East Lindsey District Councils staffs' inability to use a broom and their dependence on those 'grabber' things means that the most that is ever achieved is the removal of the odd cigarette butt. The result is an area strewn with broken glass, litter, dog excrement, vomit, et al.

A message to East Lindsey District Council – no expensive equipment required just a stiff bristled brush!



Heritage Guidance for Town Centre Partnership

In November 2009 the Trust invited Mark Barnes, the newly appointed Town Centre Manager to their Council meeting to talk about the new Town Centre Partnership.



The Partnership's aims are to promote the individuality of the town, encouraging a stable economy through increased visitor numbers and an increase in spend from visitors and residents. Mr Barnes explained how the Partnership, like the Civic Trust, recognised the role the town's buildings and visual environment play in creating an attractive place for people to spend time and money and invited the Chairman James Laverack to join the Partnership to advise on heritage issues.

Mr Barnes said, "I see the Civic Trust's role in the Partnership as essential. We want to

make the town more attractive to visitors and people who live here, particularly the younger generations and the involvement of the Trust will ensure that any plans we have, do not in any way compromise the town's unique historical context. The work of the Trust itself will also help us encourage people to appreciate not just the overall feel of the town, but the details like signage, shops fronts and façades that give it its character, inspiring them to talk positively about their experience, which is of course one of the best forms of marketing."

A Bold New Look for Louth Civic Trust

The 2010 AGM saw the launch of a bold campaign to reposition itself as a dynamic, inclusive organisation focusing on its key activities of campaigning, education and action.

Since 1967, Louth Civic Trust has been an effective force in saving buildings and spaces from irreversible changes, encouraging a sense of pride for our local heritage and looking after the details that make our town unique. But despite having a loyal membership it has found it difficult to attract new members.



The results of the consultation carried out by the Civic Society Initiative, inspired the members of the Council to assess its own position locally. The result of the report showed a general perception of civic

societies as being: 'well intentioned', 'protective', 'worthwhile', 'locally focused' and 'concerned for the built environment' but also on the negative side: 'low profile', 'old fashioned', 'conservative' and 'ageing'. The report however, also revealed the ambition among civic societies to be seen as 'locally focused', 'influential', 'dynamic', 'inclusive' and 'successful' an ambition wholeheartedly supported by Louth Civic Trust.

To achieve this at a local level, the Trust has embarked on a marketing programme to increase awareness of its work, to increase its membership and attract a wider demographic. The initial part of the programme includes the launch of a new website www.louthcivictrust.org providing online access to current projects, information booklets, newsletters and press releases and will link the Trust to like minded organisations nationally and locally. The message behind the programme focuses on the key activities of the Trust 'Campaigning, Education and Action' and introduces a new logo featuring the Louth skyline under the careful watch of the Louth Civic Trust.

In the Spotlight

In the first of our "In the Spotlight" articles we take a look at how the voluntary work of Vice Chairman John Stainton contributes to achieving the aims of the Trust and why he continues to support it's work.



Architect John Stainton, has lived in the Louth area since 1978. He joined the Civic Trust in 1984 and was soon asked to take on the role of Vice Chairman. John's work as an architect has fuelled his passion for old buildings and he is often commissioned to work on schemes within the town's Conservation Area.

John heads the Planning Sub-committee which involves organising fortnightly meetings bringing together representative Council members to comment on planning applications submitted to East Lindsey District Council relating to the Conservation Area.

Commenting on his time with Louth Civic Trust John said, "Assessing every plan put forward in the Conservation Area is very time consuming and very often involves having to object to proposals for uPVC windows or inappropriate shop signage but our input into the planning process is vital in helping the District Council ensure that any changes to buildings or developments are managed sensitively. Although through the Planning Sub-committee we perform a predominantly protective role I have also found it extremely rewarding to have been involved in larger projects which have been more about enhancing our environment in particular the developments along the trajectory of the river Lud beginning with Engine Gate Walk and then Spout Yard."