



**York Civic Trust**

*Promoting Heritage - Shaping Tomorrow*

**Annual Report and  
Heritage Review**

2016 - 2017

**Art Competition (2017)**

Osbalwick School's "Alternative View of York" assisted by Jake Attree; Osbalwick was one of the winning schools in the Education Committee's competition (York Museums Trust)

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# Chairman's Report



**Bishopthorpe Road (2017)**  
Britain's favourite high street (Nigel Kirby)

In contrast to the changes of personnel in 2015, 2016 has been a year of consolidation and foundation-building for the Trust, while several new initiatives have found their feet and are producing returns. The challenges before the city, though, continue to grow.

The Civic Trust's aim, as always, is to *promote heritage and shape tomorrow* in the city of York. We seek to achieve this through a variety of activities, such as helping schoolchildren to appreciate their city; practical, on-the-ground conservation; and our vital work with the City Council, seeking to influence and encourage its activities.

One strategic ambition is to encourage significant long-term change with a strong vision; another is to organise specific activities to raise awareness, and to make improvements that increase appreciation of our city.

So, what did 2016 bring for York? There have been some very real improvements, such as the reopening of York Art Gallery and the revelation of both the restored Minster East Window and the converted St Leonard's Place. Important streets have seen real gains, such as the shops in Bishopthorpe Road, 'Britain's favourite high street'. Lessons in rehabilitation learned there have been passed on to Micklegate and Front Street, Acomb. We look forward to further progress.

*Lessons in rehabilitation  
learned have been passed  
on to Micklegate and  
Front Street, Acomb*



**Micklegate (2017)**  
Important streets have made real gains  
(Nigel Kirby)

There have been disappointments. A large question mark continues to hang over the future of Bootham Park Hospital and its surrounding park land. In Piccadilly, earlier talk of a plan for its regeneration seems to have degenerated into a series of uncoordinated developer-led proposals for individual sites, including temporary proposals for the Reynard's Garage site. But we still have no clear vision for how this important street can play a role in the evolution of York city centre.

Similarly, there is still no movement on York Central. Although a consultation forum has been created (and our Planning Report emphasises that we are participating fully in this) no clear proposals have been presented, nor any mechanism for their achievement. We are promised an outline planning application early in 2018 but indications are that it will not be of the quality indicated by the optimistic earlier epithet, 'the Kings Cross of the North' which has sometimes been applied.

The same slow progress sadly applies to a local plan for York – there has been a

forty-year wait to give statutory underpinning to local planning strategies. The latest deferral of the plan has been caused by Ministry of Defence plans to close Strensall and Imphal Barracks over the next twelve years. Apparently, implications for housing need and provision must be reviewed before a plan, shaped, considered and adopted, can be achieved.

This slow progress may partly be due, paradoxically, to York's relative prosperity. Unemployment and disadvantage are low, particularly by northern standards, and these indicators reduce our access to national and international subsidies. Perhaps these days such prosperity is all that one can ask for, though we should certainly not take it for granted. But we should be using our prosperity as a springboard for genuine improvements to the city.

Lack of ambition, and complacency, could be our undoing. Industrial, retail and housing development, and education provision are important but, as ever, the care we apply to the appearance of our city is crucial. I make no apology for reiterating that 'York's face is its fortune'. York's history has included periods as an economic backwater; if we are careless of



Coney Street (2017)

Litter and dirt in and around our major shopping street (David Fraser)

York's heritage, we become just another small northern city. Frankly, our city does not compare well with medium sized equivalents elsewhere in Europe. It is dirty; the public realm is poorly maintained; and its distinctiveness is under attack from loss of small shops, replaced by ever more bars and restaurants. And despite earlier pioneering work in pedestrianisation, that momentum has been lost. The city is throttled by traffic and suffers air-quality problems.

There is no good reason why York residents should have to accept second best. I write these notes in Zagreb, the modest capital of Croatia – not an obvious international tourism hotspot. It's a pleasant

city, rather larger than York, with some good museums, an old town and some fine, if slightly anonymous, buildings in its 19th-century government quarter. The cathedral is not a patch on York Minster. There is little doubt that they would love some of the assets we have – low unemployment, a populous hinterland underpinning a solid tourism base and so on. But what lessons might we learn from them?

A visit to most European cities these days raises comparisons with York's generally unkempt appearance, as Sir Ron Cooke has constantly reminded us. The first thing that strikes the visitor from York is Zagreb's

*Our city does not compare well with medium sized equivalents elsewhere in Europe. It is dirty; the public realm is poorly maintained; and its distinctiveness is under attack from loss of small shops, replaced by ever more bars and restaurants*



cleanliness. Put simply, there is no litter. This must be partly down to an attitude of mind in both visitors, businesses and residents. The Zagreb city authorities set high standards of cleanliness. Equipment to keep the streets clean and to clear rubbish is carefully chosen, beautifully presented and well used. For example, each litter bin in central Zagreb is clean and well maintained. I happily leaned

**Zagreb (2017)**  
no litter, no clutter, no kerbs, no cars!  
(Andrew Scott)

against one to use it as a substitute tripod for my camera. It was polished and as clean, well maintained and shiny as a new car. It wasn't full. And this seemed normal. Why can't we do this? Why do we put up with the overflowing, physically rotten and unsavoury bins in our streets?

This commitment to investment in care and quality extends across Zagreb's public realm. Street furniture, kerbs and footways are properly designed to suit the needs of users. They are well maintained and a pleasure to walk on. It is unthinkable that a damaged stone paver would be replaced with a rough glob of tarmac, as happens so often in York. There is not an intrusive yellow line to be seen. Residents and visitors note and react to these standards. It is difficult to imagine dropping litter into these streets.

Furthermore, a radical approach has helped to deal with traffic problems across central Zagreb. Pedestrianisation and a busy electric tram system mean that traffic horrors, like the noise and the pollution that interfere with shoppers at the corner of Ousegate and Coney Street and in Coppergate are simply absent. This otherwise ordinary city sets standards that are currently out of York's reach. How can York Civic Trust help the city of York raise its game?

Change can happen. Our planning report notes that consultation is underway on plans for 'Castle Gateway', perhaps leading to the demise of the Castle car park and maybe even a rethink of the Clifford's Tower visitor centre proposal. However, threats may continue as it seems the result will not be a document with planning status. The developer-led proposals for new hotels and apartment blocks on Piccadilly, whilst not unwelcome in principle, are piecemeal and risk throwing away the opportunity to open the banks of the River Foss as an asset for the city. Our river banks should be seen as valuable, not as the place for dustbins and car parking.

A welcome development during the year was the launch of the Business Improvement District (BID), an initiative bringing together businesses in the city. The BID is already tackling litter and dirt in the city centre; and we are delighted to be working in formal partnership. We shall provide the practical achievement of any proposals in the context of our City Enhancement Programme, using funding and support from BID members to ease the path to delivery. First projects are the repair of railings and benches, and we are moving towards more ambitious projects such

as the screening of large refuse bins, and the installation of a banner at the entrance to Fossgate.

A small triumph was our success in encouraging the City Council to take seriously the menace of A-Boards. The change in our streets was instant and widely-welcomed. There is a need to maintain vigilance, but it is difficult to imagine any desire to return to the cluttered pavements that we had to negotiate before.

The success of our growing City Enhancement Programme shows that we are prepared to apply our money and our efforts directly to improving our city. Elsewhere in this report we described some of the wide range of projects now emerging from the CEP machine. Some progress with remarkable speed from idea to fruition; others take a long time in planning, and in gaining approvals. We are beginning to have an impact (almost always with supportive partners in the City, the BID members and others) in making a difference for York. Partnerships are essential but the Civic Trust brings to these projects a focus, a determination and an ability to make things happen.

Planning matters are a crucial part of the Civic Trust's work. Our Planning Committee continues to respond critically but constructively to planning proposals. With the help of the Planning Club to craft them, our comments are taken seriously by the City, and our input is regarded in the same light as that from statutory bodies like the Environment and Highways Agencies. There have been disappointments - our views are not always agreed with - but we have often been able to make a difference, and we are always pleased to support applications that will bring an improvement to York.

The Planning Committee's 'Future York' programme continues, engaging as many people as possible in a dialogue about York's priorities. There have been seminars this year on flood resilience, organised by the Trust in partnership with three local groups; and on transport, led by our volunteer Professor Tony May. We are now organising two area-based consultations.

York Design Awards, now in its tenth year, is another example of successful awareness raising. These awards draw the attention of both the public and developers to examples of high standards of design in York and, of course, reward those who achieve those standards. We have been delighted to work closely with the organisers again.

The work of the Civic Trust's Education Committee is at the heart of awareness raising. An essential part of assuring York's

future is to engage young people and the Committee has done an excellent job of opening young people's eyes to their home city. Our successful public speaking competitions, on York topics, continue, and the confidence and indeed the insight of the young participants is a joy to experience. An art competition, in partnership with York Art Gallery, has demonstrated once again the creativity of York schoolchildren and their growing awareness of the special qualities of the city in which they live.

Activities at Fairfax House are reported elsewhere but they too, of course, help to build an awareness and a pride in York's heritage. My report cannot pass, however, without mention of the remarkably successful campaign to purchase and acquire the



**Lord Mayor's Award for Heritage (2016)**

Janine Riley and John Oxley with the Lord Mayor Cllr Dave Taylor and Lady Mayoress Susan Ridley outside West Offices (City of York Council)

Grinling Gibbons panel for the house – a truly unique addition to our collections reflecting craftsmanship in York.

Thanks are due to many people. At our AGM, a popular presentation was made jointly to two officers of the City of York Council, Janine Riley and John Oxley. Their long and distinguished service was rightly recognised with the Lord Mayor's Award for Heritage. Janine Riley was the Council's Conservation Architect until her retirement in spring 2017. She is respected for her knowledge of York and its buildings; for her pragmatic approach to achieving the very best for the city's historic



**Heritage Open Days (2017)**

Dr Kate Giles, a guildhall specialist, leads one of the free guided walks (Stephen Lusty)

environment; and for her fairness in dealing with developers and conservationists alike. John Oxley, the Council's Archaeologist for nearly three decades, is equally respected for his detailed knowledge of the fabric of York, both below- and above-ground. He has weathered changes in national archaeological policy with resilience, and is renowned for his helpfulness and his practical approach to involving the whole community in York's history.

Civic Trust member, Councillor Dave Taylor, became Lord Mayor for 2016/17, a role he carried out with aplomb. We were delighted and hugely grateful when he suggested that the Civic Trust should be one of his four nominated charities for the year. This was an honour and a huge boost for drawing public attention to the Trust, but it brought with it new activities and much hard work as we sought to take advantage of our status to raise funds. Working with the other Lord Mayor's charities, Stephen Lusty and David Fraser took on the task of shaping and participating in fundraising activities and thanks are due to them and many others for a successful programme, which saw the Trust benefit to the tune of around £10,000, together with many new contacts and good publicity. One enjoyable activity involved our participation in Heritage Open Days through an ambitious programme of free guided-walks around central York, in return for donations. This was a great success and before it had finished, we had resolved to repeat the exercise in 2017 with a new emphasis on membership development (see pages 50-51).

During the past year we have also spent time comparing notes with other civic societies across England. It is very clear how blessed we are with trustees, members and volunteers who are

prepared to devote time and expertise to the Trust's work. We are significantly ahead of many other civic societies because of the preparedness of members to become involved in activities. No better example can be found than the impressive programme of visits and walks organised for members by the Events Committee. This has become a hugely appreciated feature of Civic Trust activity, much admired by members and rivals.

We have been delighted to welcome new members to the Trust Board. John Vincent chairs the Membership Committee and is leading new initiatives there, following his previous successful leadership of the Corporate Membership development scheme. Stephen Lusty took responsibility for the Civic Trust's contribution to Lord Mayor's charities fundraising but has extended his role into membership development.



**Buff Reid (2017)**

Buff with Peter Addyman and Jonpatrick Barry at the unveiling of the John Barry plaque in June (Nigel Kirby)

At last year's AGM, Buff Reid stood down after six years as a Trustee. She has made a huge contribution, not least to Fairfax House where she has been a Committee Member and Chair of the Friends. Luckily for us, she continues to contribute to Fairfax House and to the leadership of our blue plaque scheme which is now busier than ever. We thank her for that and for her past contribution at Board level.



**Sir Ron Cooke (2010)**

During filming for the York Civic Trust website. We congratulate him on his new appointment (Nigel Kirby)

In March 2017, on his appointment as Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund Regional Committee for Yorkshire and Humberside, Sir Ron Cooke resigned as Trustee and as Chairman of the City Enhancement Committee. His

achievements and service for the Civic Trust are remarkable. He was a Board member for 22 years and Chairman from 2009-2012. He took a particular interest in York's public realm and, under a Civic Trust initiative, he chaired the City Enhancement Fund and Programme from its inception in 2013. Ron's influence, vision, enthusiasm and energy have been all-pervasive in the Trust over many years. He leaves a legacy of activity and credibility which will drive the Trust forward for years to come. As a magnificent parting gesture, Sir Ron donated the entire print run of his collected essays *York: Changing the face of the city*, to the Trust. These essays are, to a real extent, the Trust's manifesto. The volume has proved immensely popular and sales are making a significant contribution to the City Enhancement Fund.

Our Chief Executive and his small team achieve a very large and seemingly-impossible percentage of the expectations heaped upon them. Our committees and their activities would not function without the individuals who give freely of their time to make things happen. Museum staff and the volunteers who staff the rooms of Fairfax House make the Trust's base a very special place. For the first time, we have listed all of our volunteers in this report – see the list on pages 58-59. On behalf of our members, I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank all of them for making York Civic Trust what it is and for helping to make a positive difference to our city. Finally, thanks to all of you, our members, for your support and engagement in making York and York Civic Trust so special.

Andrew Scott  
**Chairman**

## Fairfax House

The year 2016 was characterised by a quick succession of projects, successful grants, exhibitions, and consequently, frenetic behind the scenes activity.

It is our aim, along with York Conservation Trust, to bring the House under a more controlled system of environmental management. In 2016 the extensive roof spaces were insulated throughout, to buffer the property against external conditions and



**The Library (2017)**

Work to the library floor and removal of small sections of wall during the winter closure and clean (Hannah Phillip)

heat loss. The Conservation Trust also installed an energy-efficient condensing boiler, which can run continuously but at lower temperatures. Then, a grant from Museums Development Yorkshire enabled us to provide some additional heating and install thermostatic controls which zone the building's heating. This climate stabilisation helps the museum meet the Government Indemnity Scheme and national museum lending criteria, so that the period rooms can include loaned exhibition material.

Our improvement plans included repairing cracks, strengthening joists and supports beneath the library floor and reconditioning floorboards, which we carried out during January 2017 (the winter closure and clean). This was an opportunity to learn more about the building. Under the library, we discerned remnants of significantly older joists, implying the floor had been



*'In Pursuit of Pleasure: Entertaining Georgian Polite Society' opened on 29 July and revealed perhaps the most controversial array of objects ever at Fairfax House*

lowered. To repair cracks, we removed small sections of wall plaster, revealing some doorways and brick relieving-arches above door lintels. Most excitingly, we discovered some original paint layers in the hallway, thought to have been comprehensively stripped to brickwork in the 1980s by architect Francis Johnson. And hidden within a piece of stucco covering was an intriguing wad of horse hair as brunette-coloured as the day it was installed, 250 years ago. What other things has this building yet to reveal?

Fairfax House's public face continued uninterrupted. After *A Century of Shoes*, we turned to eighteenth-century entertainments in their varied forms from exotic to erotic. *In Pursuit of Pleasure: Entertaining Georgian Polite Society* opened on 29 July and revealed perhaps the most controversial array of objects ever at Fairfax House. Lending partners included both old: York Museums Trust, Bowes Museum, the Science Museum, and new: the Foundling Museum, Garrick Club, St Andrews University. Objects were as diverse as a noose used for public executions in Lancaster, and David Garrick's personal theatre token, through to an ivory dildo discovered in a Parisian convent. Volunteer exhibition assistants in the gallery also helped introduce visitors to the exhibition and content, to ensure sensitivities were respected.

The rich research into Georgian entertainment which created *In Pursuit of Pleasure* was for the first time encapsulated in an



**In Pursuit of Pleasure: Entertaining Georgian Polite Society (2016)**  
Eighteenth-century entertainments from exotic to erotic were exhibited (Jeremy Phillips)

exhibition guide. Traditional panel text was abandoned in favour of a booklet for visitors to use whilst viewing the exhibition and which they could take home. Although there was no charge for this, the museum trialled a nominal charge for the exhibition, which covered the booklet costs. The majority of visitors happily paid the small admission cost to include the exhibition in their tour, and visitor response to the initiatives was good. As a result, in 2017 we introduced the first increase in standard admission since 2008, from £6.50 to £7.50.

Our fourth Georgian Studies Symposium took Georgian entertainment and *Polite and Impolite Pleasures* as its focus. Ivan Day on *Crocants, collops and codsounds: fashions in dining and food in Georgian provincial towns and cities* and Professor Murray Pittock on *Music, theatre, innovation and resistance: Edinburgh in the first Age of Enlightenment* were our keynote speakers. Other superb contributors presented topics as diverse as *Whirling wheels of glory: thrill-based carriage driving as entertainment* and *Fanny Burney's animal pleasures*.

Our 2016 season of events kept pace with these themes. Popular lectures were *A hidden history of harlotry* by Hallie Rubenhold, *Minuet to waltz: the Georgian duet* by Dr Moira Goff and *Secrets of the pleasure garden in Georgian London* by Dr Hannah Greig. Food demonstrators were Ivan Day on the



*Many special events added to 2016's rich programme*

#### Fairfax House (2016) l. to r.

One of many New Earswick Flower Club's floral displays. Ivan Day's sugar creation. A student from Ampleforth College helps as a tour guide in this year's Takeover Day (Hannah Phillip)

beautiful moulded forms of Georgian icecream and Dr Annie Gray on *Dining with royalty in Georgian Britain*. We again *Explored Lord Fairfax's cellar* with Richard Goodacre through wines from England's oldest ally, Portugal.

Many special events added to 2016's rich programme. The University of York's Festival of Ideas encouraged horologist and collector Dr John Taylor to explore *Keeping time in a Georgian house* and share with the audience some of his own exquisite clocks. The City's Illuminating York festival let the House's "original inhabitants" make a bawdy re-appearance with tales of life after dark. Our Living History weekend in August brought Georgian pastimes and domestic entertainments to life, thanks to re-enactors *Mannered Mob*. Also in August was our Flower Festival, when New Earswick Flower Club's stunning floral installations filled the House with colour, texture and smell and used the kitchen for flower arranging demonstrations. In September, a new York evening arts event – Vespertine, in collaboration with York Theatre Royal – included Fairfax House in a guided candlelight trail. Performance, film, choral singing and dance illuminated Georgian York's thirst for amusement as participants processed from the House to the Assembly Rooms and the De Grey Rooms.

Fairfax House also participated for the first time in Takeover Day, a national initiative enabling children to have a meaningful role in local museums and galleries. In November, Year 7 students of Ampleforth College were brought by Headmaster Dr David Moses to help our staff and volunteers as tour guides, curators and marketing assistants. They explored the connection between the Fairfaxes' York townhouse and country house, Gilling Castle,

where the young people are based. They created fantastic stories, Facebook and Twitter feeds, exhibition labels, marketing materials and guided tours in an exhausting but exhilarating day.

Shortly afterwards, the Christmas transformation of the House led to the *Keeping of Christmas*. Ivan Day's sugar creation, the centre-piece of the magnificent dining table dessert arrangement for over 20 years, was retired in favour of his even more detailed and resplendent sugar paste Temple of Circe. Celebrations of the Yule season included twilight tours with the Director, an evening of festive music by Bellissime, a lullaby concert with Ad Hoc, *Molly Maids' Mouse Tales* for families, and mulled wine and mince pies in the kitchen.

In 2016 many businesses in York still suffered from the Christmas 2015 floods, and visitor numbers were generally down. However, Fairfax House weathered the storm through its exhibitions, publicity and engagement, with a total of 24,000 visitors, an increase on the previous two years.

Our Townhouse Mouse (covered in the last Annual Report) continues to flourish. In April 2016, with help from Museum Development Yorkshire, we launched the second stage of the concept and challenged young visitors to act as historical detectives and find the Fairfax diamonds. The Mouse's *Quest* was recognised with the Historic Houses Association's Frances Garnham Award for innovation in education. The award recognises successful intergenerational learning experiences for families, and it was presented to the Museum at a ceremony in November at Worcester Cathedral. We are also delighted that two articles about Mouse Gregory, his quest and trail, were published in *Historic House*, the HHA magazine.

In January we again opened for York Residents' Weekend – and as our library floor was up, residents really saw behind the scenes. In February 2017 our biennial *Silver Screen* festival saw a week of vintage film projected in the Saloon, under the theme of 'Heroes and Villains', evoking the days when the building was St George's

Cinema. Popcorn, cocktails and ice-creams helped the audience enjoy the stars and taut plots on the large screen. In March 2017 we supported York Literature Festival by hosting three lectures: Dr Annie Gray on her book *A greedy queen: eating with Victoria*; Dr Quintin Coleville on Emma Hamilton, and John Goodall on 120 years of *Country Life* magazine.

Late 2016 and early 2017 were much occupied by preparations for the museum's exhibition *Made in York: inventing and enlightening the Georgian city*, which opened on 5 May 2017, along with a lavish exhibition guide and catalogue. *Made in York* celebrates the wealth of pioneering ideas, inventions, ground-breaking discoveries, objects of beauty, innovation, artistry, talent and craftsmanship that York has nurtured. Loans include works by glass painter Henry Gyles, a sporting gun by William Simpson, artworks by Mary Ellen Best, Philip Mercier and Francis Place, and some papers of John Goodricke. The impact of this exhibition has been enhanced by installing exhibition material in the House's period rooms, enabled by our work along with the Conservation Trust to stabilise the museum environment.

During preparation for the exhibition in late December the sudden discovery of Grinling Gibbons' earliest known, York-made, King David panel changed the course of the museum's plans for months to come. This small but exquisitely sculpted high relief, 37cm x 24cm, is carved from two blocks of boxwood closely paired together. Before his twentieth birthday, around 1667, Gibbons moved to England, settling in York and working as a journeyman for three years till 1671 under the pre-eminent York architect, builder and carver, John Etty. It is thought the panel was commissioned by the widowed wife of Sir Robert Barwick to remember her son, who died tragically in 1666, marking the end of the Barwick line and the start of the Fairfax connection. The panel is filled with divine imagery and the carved language of music - from King David at the centre with his harp to St Cecilia above playing an organ, both surrounded by angelic musicians playing instruments.

We found that this panel was for sale and therefore at risk of being lost from this country. It became the focus of an ambitious campaign to save it by raising the £300,000 needed to secure it for York and Fairfax House – requiring speed to ensure that it did not leave the country. The Heritage Lottery Fund, Art Fund and V&A/Arts Council England's Purchase Grant fund responded rapidly to grant applications so that two thirds of the purchase

price had been secured by the end of April 2017. The Friends of Fairfax House, the Noel G. Terry Trust, Leche Trust, Kenneth Hargreaves Trust, Finnis Scott Foundation, AXA Fine Art and the Drapers Company (of which Gibbons was a member) also responded with generous grants, and there were many personal donations. This piece of the nation's heritage is in the House's exhibition *Made in York* and we look forward to being able to give the King David panel a permanent and secure home at Fairfax House.

This catalogue of events, exhibitions, projects, grants and successes could not have been achieved without the small but extremely hard-working team of staff at Fairfax House, and the unstinting support of the volunteers and Friends of Fairfax House.

In naming a few of these key individuals we inevitably overlook many others but it nevertheless essential to recognise the immense efforts and input of Victoria Atkinson, Sarah Burnage, Jean Dilworth, Thomas Jacobs, Rachel Wallis, Sue Whatt and Karina Williams, and express our appreciation for all the hard work that they have channelled into Fairfax House across 2016-17.



King David plays (2016)  
Detail of Grinling Gibbon's panel  
(Fairfax House)

# Friends of **Fairfax House**

The year started with the Friends being able to initiate a new project. Having received generous bequests from two former members of the Friends, we were able to offer an inaugural Memorial Scholarship in partnership with the History of Art Department at the University of York for an MA student to undertake research into a previously unexplored aspect of Fairfax House. After interviewing applicants, the scholarship was awarded to Estée O'Connor, who is from America, to look into the 19th century history of Fairfax House.

Our annual events programme kicked off with a visit to Everingham Hall. This John Carr building had been restored by Francis Johnson: both architects are very closely associated with Fairfax House. In June we visited Sion Hill Hall, a neo-Georgian house designed by Walter Brierley in 1913. The house is rarely open for group visits so this was an interesting opportunity to see the fine collection of furniture, porcelain, and paintings. July found us enjoying a wonderful day out to Scampston Hall and Wykeham Priory. At Scampston we had a guided tour of the Capability Brown-designed park as well as exploring the more recently installed gardens. On arrival at Wykeham, we were shown round the house by Diana, Lady Downe, who is a member of the Friends. Afterwards some of our more hardy members visited the nearby tree nursery, whilst others enjoyed the sunshine and a leisurely stroll round the garden and the remains of the old Priory. Our thanks to Langley's, solicitors of York, for their generous sponsorship of the drinks.

September took us to the Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate for a talk and exhibition on the work of Capability Brown in the 300th anniversary of his birth, a follow up to what we had learned at Scampston. Our final outing for the summer season was another ever popular exploration of churches in villages around York. This year we went to Cropton, Lastingham and Appleton-Le-Moors.

Our annual talks programme proved as popular as ever with Dr David Allen explaining about the 'History of Silver Hallmarking' and Dr Adam Bowett enlightening us on the 'Perils and Pitfalls of Furniture Collecting in the 20th Century'. Our AGM in April suffered a minor setback when our guest speaker became stranded on the train from London. Fortunately Estée O'Connor was able



**Mecklenburg (2017)**

Friends' international visit to this historically rich area  
(Hannah Phillip)

*Our annual talks programme  
proved as popular as ever*

to give an update on her research into Fairfax House in the 19th century. We also had great pleasure in awarding Honorary Membership of the Friends to Peter Brown, previous Director of Fairfax House and Gerry and Judy Webb, who have provided years of sterling support as Editor of the Newsletter and Events Secretary respectively.

In May, a group of Friends of Fairfax House, went on a tour of the lake lands, historic palaces, manor houses and gardens of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Over eight days the Friends experienced one of Germany's lesser-known historically rich areas, and learned of its creation and its many periods of turbulence, occupation and transition to the present day.



**Everingham Hall (2016)**

Friends attending a talk on this John Carr building (David Yates)



**Wykeham Priory (2016)**

Friends hear from Lady Downe about her family house and gardens  
(David Yates)

## Events and Activities for Members



### Cycle Ride (2016)

On Hob Moor during the cycle tour of historic Strays  
(Christine Cockett)

Once again, members responded with enthusiasm to the programme of events and activities, so much so that we had to ask several of our organisers to offer extra dates to help us cope with demand.

The year began as usual with the coffee morning at Darrell Buttery's house, always a hugely enjoyable occasion which provides opportunities both for relaxed conversation and the odd indulgence in attractive antiques and books. Darrell's generous hospitality continued with his hosting of the August lunch and the winter Social Evening, with the added bonus of a splendid talk by Adam Schoon, one of the regulars on BBC *Antiques Roadshow*.

In 2015-6 we reported that members had the opportunity to see the transformed York Art Gallery. Last autumn, they saw the newly reopened Theatre Royal, thanks to an excellent guided tour by Theatre staff, the afternoon concluding with tea and scones. It was a real pleasure on both occasions to see two of York's most important cultural assets enjoying such a renaissance.

The year included a number of memorable talks starting with the Sheldon lecture on George Howard (given by Christopher Ridgway) and concluding with our President, Peter Addyman, talking about the authoritative *York* volume of the *British Historic Towns Atlas*, of which he was the editor. Our ever-popular walking tours included Shopping in Georgian York, Twentieth-century York, Jane Grenville's Look-Up walk, the Gothic Revival in York, Middlethorpe Hamlet (with Elizabeth Smith, by popular demand again), and Micklegate Stray (in the rain). Our President's tour of the Stonebow building, the Telephone Exchange and Ryedale House was described as Love Them or Loathe Them, but the record doesn't show whether the evening led to any significant changes of opinion, one way or the other.

Interspersed between the walks and talks were fascinating visits to buildings and locations. In the early part of the year, Richard Carr-Archer took members to Middlethorpe Hall; in June, the



### Adam Schoon (2016)

At the winter Social Evening  
(Adam Schoon)

staff of Hiscox hosted an evening at their impressive new headquarters building at Peasholme Green; in July, there was a repeat visit to Heslington Hall and a tour of the University's west campus. Later in the year there were visits to Bootham Park Hospital, Askham Bryan College, the new Construction Skills Centre at York College and the developments at the Terry Chocolate Works. And as if this wasn't enough, there were two excellent evenings at the Network Rail Archive in Clifton Moor and a chance to see the restored Museum Gardens. Under our 'Future York' programme two special workshops were run where experts could inform our members and members' discussion and contributions could inform Civic Trust policy. An unusual innovation was a cycle tour of the historic Strays of York, organised and led by David Fraser, with the help of York Bike Belles, as part of the city-wide Our Beautiful City Walk & Cycle Festival.

It goes without saying that a programme of this scale and variety entails a substantial amount of work and organisation. During the year we trialled electronic booking via Eventbrite, a rather challenging process. Enormous thanks are due to all the members of the Trust's Events and Activities Committee, to our many unsung friends who run or facilitate events and to the staff in the Trust's office. We are also grateful to our members, whose constant support encourages us to keep thinking of new ideas, and whose payments to join events makes a useful contribution to Trust income. If anyone has ideas for future events, we will be very pleased to hear from them.



### Bootham Park Hospital (2016)

Later in the year was a visit to the Hospital  
(Nigel Kirby)

*Once again,  
members  
responded  
with  
enthusiasm  
to the  
programme  
of events  
and  
activities*

# Education and Outreach



Secondary School Public Speaking Competition (2016)  
All participants receive a certificate; the winner's trophy is awarded by the Civic Party  
(David Thewlis)



## Public Speaking Competitions

Is York no more than a museum for tourists? Who is your favourite character in York's Mystery Plays? Why is York special? Roman soldier or Viking warrior – who would win? If I had £1 million to spend in York city centre I would spend it on... These were some of the topics debated by the young people in the annual Primary Public Speaking Competition that took place in July 2016 at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall. The Primary Competition is one of two organised by the Education Committee in order to fulfil its aims of introducing the values of the Trust to the young people of York. It was won this year by St Wilfrid's School, whose two representatives, Beau Gascoigne and Ellen York, went head to head on the Romans versus Viking question. Other schools dealt with how they would use the £1 million, with the St Lawrence's pupils choosing to spend it on homeless people, with half on Arc Light and half on a new shelter for 16 to 19 year olds, while Josh ffrench-Adam of Lord Deramore's would spend it on a football stadium for the city centre. Many participants spoke without notes and the audience and judges were impressed by the high standard of speaking. The chief judge, Darrell Buttery, described it as an "electrifyingly good evening".

The Secondary Competition, for pupils in years eight and nine, took place in November at the Guildhall.

*The chief judge, Darrell Buttery,  
described it as an  
"electrifyingly good evening"*

Schools were given a choice of five topics to debate. These were:

- Being a tourist attraction is a boon for the city. Discuss
- Georgians or Victorians – which contributed most to York?
- Have railways or chocolate done more for York?
- Is York a great place to grow up?
- Two hours in York is a waste of time!

Bootham School won and was awarded the special obelisk designed by Dick Reid together with £25 each in theatre vouchers. Its representatives, Francesca Mitten and Milo Gilderdale McMullen, debated 'Two hours in York is a waste of time!' concluding that it was because tourists need far more than that in a city filled with such history and historic buildings. The judges described the quality of the speaking as outstanding, entertaining and stimulating. Members of York Civic Trust are welcome to attend both annual competitions free of charge.



**The winning schools (2017)**  
The five school artwork pictures  
(York Museums Trust)



#### **The Project Gallery of York Art Gallery(2017)**

The participating schools' entries are displayed: the sweet model is back right (David Thewlis)

The Education Committee also collaborated with York Art Gallery to organise an art competition entitled, 'An Alternative View of York'. Pupils were challenged to create their own pictures of York from a new viewpoint, one inspired by John Piper's 1951 painting 'View from Clifford's Tower'. Fifteen schools took part. For several this was a whole-school commitment and consequently in total some 2,000 pupils participated. A range of media was used and teachers and children interpreted the task in different ways. One school even built a model of York entirely out of sweets, with fudge for the walls and wafer biscuits for the roof of York Minster.

The five winning schools were Copmanthorpe, Danesgate, Knavesmire, Osbaldwick and Rufforth; each was awarded two



*One school even built a model of York entirely out of sweets, with fudge for the walls and wafer biscuits for the roof*

days of workshops with a resident artist. The resulting artworks were photographed and displayed in the panels on the outer front of York Art Gallery. Some of the best artworks in the competition were selected for exhibition in the Project Gallery and formed a stunning display from April to the end of July.

The Education Committee's Cultural Heritage Prize is awarded for the best thesis submitted by a student graduating in the MA in Management of Cultural Heritage at the University of York. The 2016 prize was awarded by the Trust Chairman Andrew Scott in January 2017 to Michala Pearson for her thesis, 'Behind the scenes at the museum: an investigation into the role of visible storage.'

## York Design Awards

The aim of the York Design Awards is to encourage and promote excellence in design and conservation, striving for the highest standards which will delight present and future generations. The Awards were founded, and are still chaired by, our former Trustee Janet Hopton. The Trust supports them with a financial contribution and the involvement of several members on the Committee.

The 2017 Awards were launched in February at the Hiscox Building, when writer and cultural consultant Lewis Biggs delivered a keynote address recounting his experiences in cultural developments and as Director of Liverpool Biennial and Director of Tate Liverpool.

This eleventh edition of the Awards attracted a record-breaking entry of 34 candidates, and the winners were announced at the annual presentation evening in June at York Racecourse, itself a York Design Award winner in 2015.



All the winners at this year's Design Awards (2017)

(Duncan Lomax)

## Winners 2017



### Special award to York Civic Trust (2017)

Julian Bicknell presents the award to Andrew Scott, Michaela Dobson and Nick Beilby (Duncan Lomax)

We were absolutely delighted that our City Enhancement Programme was one of the winners. Head judge and architect Julian Bicknell presented a special award to York Civic Trust, accepted by Nick Beilby, Andrew Scott, and Michaela Dobson, in recognition of our contribution over recent years to the city's monuments and public places; in particular to the four schemes submitted this year in two related categories:

### Conservation

- Rigg Monument
- Gates to former playing fields, Archbishop Holgate's School

### Non-Residential and Open Space

- John Snow Memorial
- All Saints Pavement churchyard



### **The Chocolate Works (2017)**

Winner of the Lord Mayor's Award, and the York Design Award, Large Residential Category (York Design Awards)

The other winners in their categories were:

### **Residential – Large**

- The Chocolate Works (phase 1)
- Derwenthorpe (phase 2)

### **Non-Residential – Large**

- York Theatre Royal
- Little Knavesmire Sports Pavilion



### **York Theatre Royal (2017)**

Winner of the *Press People's* Award, and the York Design Award, Large Non-Residential Category (York Conservation Trust)



### **Alpha Cottage (2017)**

Residential - Small Category (York Design Awards)



### **Rattle Owl (2017)**

Non-Residential - Small Category (York Design Awards)

### **Residential – Small**

- Alpha Cottage

### **Non-Residential – Small**

- Rattle Owl

### **Conservation**

- Bishopsbarn



### **Bishopsbarn (2017)**

Conservation Category (York Design Awards)

As illustrated on page 32, two special champions came from amongst these winners. The Lord Mayor's Award for the overall winner went to the Chocolate Works, and the *Press People's* Award, voted for by the general public, went to York Theatre Royal.

# Planning

## The Work of our Planning Committee and Planning Club

Arguably the most influential work we do to influence the future shape of York is our contribution to the planning process. Our Planning Committee, chaired by Dr Jane Grenville, has a membership of architects, planners, archaeologists and conservation specialists. It meets ten times a year and considers strategic planning issues, and specific planning cases. About 10% of planning applications involved Listed Building Consent and applications in Conservation Areas, which must be closely studied. In the year, we have submitted over 70 substantive observations to the Council, in our role as recognised consultee in the planning process. The work is helped enormously by a recent initiative by Jane Grenville: the Heritage Conservation Studio (popularly referred to as the 'Planning Club') formed of University of York post-graduate students from the several vocational Masters degree programmes in conservation, and in archaeology. This year, under the competent administration of Duncan Marks, the club met weekly and scanned every planning application submitted to the City of York Council. Using a software platform to enable collaborative working, the club identifies significant cases, researches them and remits them, with observations and recommendations, to the Planning Committee – some 170 of these. Although many of our observations are formal objections, we are careful to commend schemes which are particularly successful in maintaining historic character, and we also make neutral comments to assist the Council in the determination of complex cases.

## Planning Issues in the City

This year saw the retirement of Janine Riley, the Council's hugely effective Conservation Architect. Her knowledge, expertise and wisdom will be hard to replace. In a period of continuing austerity, we remain concerned about the conservation capacity of the City of York Council. York is so special that it is absolutely essential that the Council employs sufficient staff who are able to understand the complex historic environment and to use that understanding to make informed decisions about the future shape

of the city. We can report that we have lobbied hard in this respect and the signs are good that the Council recognises the importance of this role and is seeking to recruit a strong replacement.

Meanwhile there are trends in development, which we think require constant vigilance:

- Enforcement Activity: cuts at the Council means that the enforcement team is sadly reduced. Planning Club therefore pays special attention to identifying work to historic buildings carried out without consent. For example, a listed house in Front Street, Acomb, was insensitively converted without permission to a house of multiple occupancy. In these cases, it is essential that the Council takes strong enforcement action to redress the damage, or to negotiate retrospectively towards a satisfactory outcome.
- A-boards: it was very welcome news when the Council finally established a policy to reduce the number of advertising boards on the public highways of our city centre. We applaud them for taking this step to safeguard the character and avoid illegal obstruction of our precious streets. But enforcement is a vital issue so we ask everybody to be alert to spot infringements of the policy.
- 'Office to Residential' conversions: with a relaxation of the rules over permitted development we see a swathe of proposals to convert large under-used office blocks into apartment accommodation. Two examples are

*Very welcome news when the council finally established a policy to reduce the number of advertising boards*



**A-boards (2014)**  
A-boards in 2014, but sadly still prominent in 2016 (Ron Cooke)



**Outdoor seating, St Helen's Square (2017)**

a marked increase in applications for new restaurants in the city centre (Kim Kirby)



**Floods (2015)**

December 2015 floods (Kim Kirby)

Ryedale House at 58-60 Piccadilly, and Yorkshire House at 2 Rougier Street. While we recognise the need for more housing, we fear these proposals are driven by short-term economic gain rather than the supply of mixed and affordable housing that the residents of York really need.

- **Outdoor seating:** we observe a marked increase in applications for new restaurants in the city centre, many including 'change of use' of the public pavement to provide outdoor seating. There are many examples in Goodramgate, Micklegate, Coney Street and St Helen's Square. We welcome the bustling economic activity of pavement cafés, but there should be moderation, to prevent blocking pavements and highways and insensitively changing the character of our historic centre.

## Future York

Continuing our programme of encouraging members to think about the strategic future of the York, we held two events which invited our members to participate, to learn, and to formulate their own ideas about the future shape of the city and its people.

The first event, Resilient York, was a day-school in November 2016 exploring implications for our heritage of York's December 2015 floods. This was a collaborative effort, co-organised by David Fraser, with Gill Chitty from the University of York and Tracy Wilcockson from the York Conservation Alumni Association. Speakers from local and national organisations considered how we can be better prepared for the future risks facing York's historic centre, and work strategically and locally to create a more resilient city by adapting, preparing and conserving to protect York's vulnerable heritage. The practical conclusion was to identify four actions, including the production of information

for residents on heritage resilience, and the need to engage in research on the effects of catastrophic environmental change in other historic cities.

The second event was a pair of workshops on Transport Policy for York. Organised by transport experts Professors Tony May and Greg Marsden, the February 2017 workshops focussed on wide strategic issues: the type of transport system which participants wanted to see locally and, using a comprehensive database of the practical implementation of transport policies, the broad types of policy measure which might be adopted. The final report had 25 recommendations which we have presented to the City of York Council in preparation for the next revision of the Local Transport Plan. The major problems identified were congestion, air pollution, poor accessibility for some people and journeys, and danger on the roads. The practical and affordable solutions identified were many, but require much attention to be given to behavioural change by travellers on foot, by car, bike and bus.



**Transport (2017)**

Traffic in the city centre (Tony May)

## York Central and York Castle Gateway

Two areas of our city have been in need of redevelopment for many years, if not decades. York Central, or the ‘tear-drop’ site, is the large area of railway back-lands to the west of the railway station. York Castle Gateway is the central area containing York Castle and the main routes south out of the city, including Piccadilly and Fossgate. Both are desperately in need of single coordinating visions and good master plans. We are pleased to see that the Council recognises this and is making renewed efforts to increase public engagement and creative thought about the future of these two critical areas. We will continue to support the Council by collecting and promoting the views of our members, and the next two events in our ‘Future York’ programme will feature detailed analysis and debate focussed on the two areas.

### MAJOR CASES

#### Bootham Park Hospital

It is now two years since the oldest purpose-built mental hospital still in use was abruptly closed, in our view



Guildhall (2015)  
(Kim Kirby)

because of lack of coordinated planning in the National Health Service. It has stood largely empty since then. Now we know that a new purpose-built mental health hospital will be established elsewhere in York, so that the Grade I listed John Carr building of 1774 will be surplus to requirements. While the hospital has the maximum possible protection under the heritage protection system, we are still concerned that physical intervention in the fabric and its surrounding landscape, the chapel, the park and its railings, will result in a series of compromises and damage to the historic and social significance of the hospital.

#### Mansion House and Guildhall

The major restoration of the Mansion House continues, although hampered by the insolvency of the major contractors, the long-

established historic building specialists William Anelay. We played an active part in public consultation on the colours of the front elevation, the final decision being to reproduce the red and cream of the 1890s Mansion House. Plans to redevelop the Guildhall complex, including the Council chambers, are progressing. We support the strategic aims of the scheme to form office and restaurant space in this special location, while retaining the public and civic uses of the hall and chambers themselves. But we objected to the proposal to create a new doorway in the medieval southern wall of the Guildhall, believing that good circulation could be achieved in other ways.

#### Stonebow House

We considered the proposals by Oakgate to renovate this brutalist tower and podium building of 1964 which so polarises public opinion in York. The works, which are now in progress, include demolition of the first-floor walkway and external stairs, the creation of commercial units on the ground floors and residential flats in the upper stories, with an additional top floor. Although we had some detailed reservations, we generally welcomed this scheme to improve the condition of Stonebow House and return it to beneficial economic use.



Stonebow House (2014)  
This 1962 building now to become apartments  
(Kim Kirby)

## Clifford's Tower

English Heritage has been given the task of making its properties financially viable, which of course means developing facilities and sales at the historic properties, and lifting visitor numbers. The plans for Clifford's Tower have three elements: repair and conservation of the physical structure of the Tower; improved access to the interior by installing staircases and a roof deck; and creation of a new-build visitor centre and associated facilities in the 20th-century profile of the mound. In summary, we supported the first two elements, but objected to the location and design of the visitor centre. The planning authority approved all three elements. We declined to take part in a judicial review of the decision because we believed that the process had been properly carried out. We await the final outcome, but are keen to see a satisfactory resolution for this important development, and integration into the wider Castle Gateway master plan.

## 46-50 Piccadilly

Also within the area of the Castle Gateway master plan is a proposal by Northminster to construct a hotel and flats on the site of the former Polar Garage in Piccadilly. We do not oppose in principle the redevelopment of this site, since a hotel here will be in keeping with the Council's Castle Gateway ambitions. But we consider that more could be done to improve the detailed design quality and the basic footprint, which could then act as a catalyst for the whole area. In particular, we agree with the Council that the Foss riverbank on this side must be accessible as a riverside walkway and a pedestrian bridge should be created across to the Castle Bailey area.

## Carlton Tavern, 140 Acomb Road

It is proposed that this building be demolished and a 79-bed care home be built on the site. Although unlisted and not in a conservation area, it is the last of the grand Victorian and Edwardian villas on Acomb Road and contributes much to the character of the area. We are not opposed in principle to the erection of a care home on this site, and recognise the need in York for greater provision of good-quality residential and nursing care. But the building itself has a history of social care use, as a children's home and day nursery, and could be reused. We support a modified design, retaining the existing building and with new residential accommodation to the rear.



## Rowntree factory (2009)

There is a proposal to convert the Almond and Cream Blocks into apartments  
(Nigel Kirby)

## Cocoa Works, Haxby Road

The former Rowntree factories have been largely demolished, but the Almond and Cream Blocks remain. There is now a proposal to convert and extend these blocks to create 263 apartments, together with associated community facilities in and around the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Library. After some revision of the plans, we are largely content with the proposals, although we remain concerned about the loss of internal historical detail, and the resolution of the transport and access issues affecting the wider city.

## Hudson House, Toft Green

These four office blocks were built in the late 1960s in a brutalist style. Although the blocks are not listed, they are located in a highly sensitive archaeological and historical location, in a corner of our city walls. There is a proposal to demolish all four and replace them with four similar blocks. While we do not feel that the existing buildings are of sufficient quality to demand their preservation, we think it is a surprising proposal to replace the current buildings – at an economic and environmental cost – considering the similar massing and footprint that the developer has outlined in the planning application for the new buildings. We certainly feel it is most important that the proposed replacements, in this prominent location, should not unduly enlarge the profile of the existing blocks. We also believe that if permission to demolish is given, there should be sufficient opportunity to thoroughly investigate the area's archaeology.

# City Enhancement

Our City Enhancement Programme and Fund were founded by our long-term member and former Chairman Sir Ron Cooke to help preserve and restore the public spaces of York. As Sir Ron leaves the Trust, the Programme has a solid foundation and is going from strength to strength. We have had an exceptionally busy and successful year.

The money available for City Enhancement benefitted from two major injections of funds during the year. We had a generous anonymous donation of some £30,000,

with a promise of this being repeated – a positive gesture and an indication that our work is respected in the city. And Sir Ron, as a magnificent parting gesture, wrote and published a book *York: changing the face of the city*, a collection of his hopes and aspirations for York. All proceeds from this book are going to the City Enhancement Fund.

## The Rigg Monument

Undoubtedly the biggest event of the year was the completion of our Rigg Monument project, which was described in last year's Report. On 11 March 2017, His Grace the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, Lord Archbishop of York, presided over a service of dedication for the restored Rigg Memorial in the churchyard of St Lawrence. This marked the culmination of an eighteen-month project to bring the unusual and poignant monument, built by public subscription, back to its former state. The project needed designers and craftspeople who could re-set all the stones; clean the stonework; repair the railings; rebuild and repoint the brickwork; and reinstate the

*The biggest event of the year was the completion of our Rigg Monument project*

inscription. It had also needed planning permissions and, of course, fund-raising - mostly by a 21st-century version of public subscription. The project was ably led by our volunteer Nick Beilby who, along with the churchwardens of St Lawrence, Iain Milne and Kevin Atkinson, and a large project team, gave many hours of effort to the task. The public response to the restoration demonstrates that the sad story of the Rigg parents' loss resonates to this day.



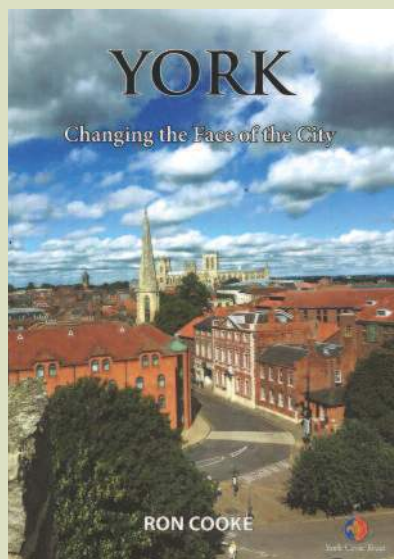
**Dedication of the Rigg Monument (2017)**  
The Archbishop of York (Nigel Kirby)



**Rigg Monument (2017)**  
The repaired and restored monument (Nick Beilby)



**The re-carved inscription (2017)**  
The wording and layout needed significant research (Nick Beilby)



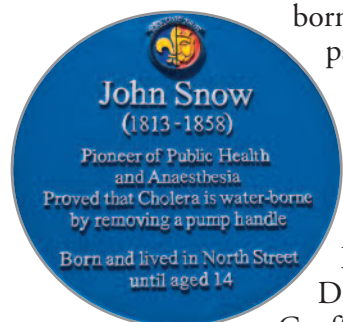
**Changing the Face of the City (2016)**  
A collection of Sir Ron Cooke's hopes and aspirations (Ron Cooke)



**The John Snow Memorial (2017)**  
Stephanie Snow and Geoff Snow at the opening event of the John Snow memorial, North Street Gardens (Nigel Kirby)

## John Snow Memorial

Within a week of the St Lawrence service came an even more unusual tribute. On 15 March 2017, we held a ceremony in North Street Gardens to launch the memorial to Dr John Snow. Snow (1813-1858) was born in North Street and is known as a hugely influential physician because of his pioneering and successful research in the fields of anaesthesia and epidemiology. The memorial consists of a Victorian water pump, which recalls John Snow's famous action in breaking the handle off a heavily-used pump in London's Soho to interrupt the water-borne progression of a cholera epidemic. Our



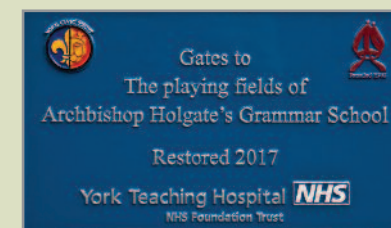
partners here, working under project manager Nick Beilby, included the University of York and York Medical Society, with significant support from Yorkshire Water, the City of York Council, and York Teaching Hospital. The opening event included speeches from David Duncan, Registrar of the University, David Fraser, and Snow's descendants, Dr Geoff Snow and Dr Stephanie Snow (who then gave an enthralling lecture in the Park Inn). The memorial is completed with a blue plaque and an interpretation board.

## Gates to the former playing fields of Archbishop Holgate's School

Iron gates installed over 150 years ago at the southern end of Bootham Stray, now in Bridge Lane on the site of York Hospital, were the focus of this project. Funded by the hospital, the project involved the repair and restoration of gates which had formed the entrance to former sports fields used by the boys of Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School. The historic gates were fabricated by Hawleys on behalf of the Walker Iron Foundry of York in the 1850s. The Walker Iron Foundry, on Walmgate, was a very prestigious firm. It supplied the gates and railings for the British Museum (among other national and local installations) and earned the patronage of Queen Victoria, being appointed 'iron founders and purveyors of smith's work' to the Queen. On 2 May Patrick Crowley, the hospital Chief Executive, unveiled the repaired gates in front of a group of the School's Old Boys. An interpretation board and blue plaque completes the project.



**Walker Iron Foundry Gates (2017)**  
The ribbon on the restored gate to the playing fields of Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School before cutting by Patrick Crowley (Michaela Dobson)



## Other Completed Projects

- In last year's report, we left St Margaret's Church, Walmgate, without an "M" in the metal banner over the gate. The missing letter has been made, and, to complete the project, we repainted in black and gold the entire gate and banner. The National Centre for Early Music (which York Civic Trust played a role in creating) now has a more fitting entrance.
- In Lawrence Street close to St Lawrence Church, there is a cast iron water trough for thirsty horses, installed by the York branch of the RSPCA in the 1890s. We have redecorated it in its former colour of York green.

- The coat of arms of the former Beckett's Bank in Coney Street (now a branch of Starbucks) had become dirty and unnoticed. We have repainted it, primarily in red and gold, and it now shines like a beacon. We commend the slogan of Beckett's Bank (*Prodesse Civibus* - to benefit citizens) to modern financiers.
- An ornate Georgian doorcase and door has stood for more than two hundred years in the passageway leading down to City Screen past the church of St Martin le Grand. Once a York hub as the door to the *York Courant*, it was function-less, broken, dirty, and unloved. We cannot restore its function as a door, but we have replaced the wooden pilasters and the wooden hood, we have redecorated the door in period cream, and we have protected it from large modern refuse bins with a metal bumper bar. Seen by thousands of people every day, the result is now an agreeable reminder of the complex nature of our streetscapes.
- The wrought-iron railings outside the Winner Winner restaurant on King's Staith were bent and broken in places, with finials missing and paint work worn through. We commissioned specialist iron workers to repair and replace the metal; and we commissioned a decorator to repaint the railings in black and gold. The result is impressive. It serves to highlight the state of other railings in the vicinity, and indeed, around the city.

Our aspirations for the City Enhancement Programme itself do not get any smaller. There are currently some sixty projects at stage 1 (proposed), and some thirty projects at various stages of active execution. We are always optimistic, despite the barriers of opportunity, cost and red tape which burden many projects. Some of the many future possibilities (proposed by us and others) to improve the public realm of the city include:

- The restoration of the churchyard of St Helen's in Davygate, a public space in the city centre
- Audit and repair the street clocks (stimulated by the magnificent St Martin's Coney Street example)
- A memorial to the Rowntree family
- The reinstatement of portcullises in our Bars
- The repair of the ice house in the City Walls behind Lord Mayor's Walk



George Butterworth plaque (2016)  
Anthony Murphy and the girls of Mount School (Nigel Kirby)

## Plaques

Last year we broke our own record by unveiling seven blue plaques in the city, and this year our team of historians under the leadership of Buff Reid broke it again with a grand total of eleven. Our plaques draw attention to eight people and three places; seven men and one woman (an imbalance of which we are conscious and are actively seeking to redress); three Georges and two Johns; two musicians, a comedian, a stone-carver, an architect, a horticulturalist, a doctor, and an independent politician.

In July 2016, we commemorated the life of George Butterworth, composer and soldier, one hundred years after his death on the Somme, with a plaque on his family's house in Driffild Terrace. The occasion was completed with a short talk by Butterworth's biographer Anthony Murphy, and by the girls of Mount School singing a selection of his songs.

Later that month, a happy group congregated at a terraced house in Hartoft Street during the Great Yorkshire Fringe. The house was the childhood home of the comedian Frankie Howerd, and his plaque was unveiled by the internationally-acclaimed actor Mark Addy. Also present was the Lord Mayor, Dave Taylor, for

whom the event was a personal achievement, having initiated the fund-raising for the plaque.

At an event in the shadow of Bootham Bar in November 2016, we unveiled a plaque on the former



Frankie Howerd plaque (2016)  
Hartoft Street, childhood home of the comedian (Nigel Kirby)



#### John Barry plaque (2017)

The event attracted much media attention, including the BBC and ITV (Nigel Kirby)



workshop of George Milburn, wood-carver and stone-carver. His career was long and prestigious, and his stature is only now being recognised. The curtain was parted by his descendant Antony Power.

The third George was remembered in December at 31 Castlegate, now a restaurant run by Nick Julius, but formerly the offices of George Townsend Andrews, the Victorian architect who designed York Prison, the De Grey Rooms and many railway buildings. The unveiling was carried out by his biographer Bill Fawcett, and a gathering of railway heritage enthusiasts was treated to a reception in the restaurant.

February 2017 saw us in Micklegate (coincidentally at the headquarters of the York Conservation Trust) unveiling a plaque to James Backhouse, a botanist and nurseryman who used his plant-hunting journeys to Australia and South Africa to act as a Quaker missionary. We were supported by the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, a partnership which will continue, as York has a long history in horticulture. To demonstrate that the benefits of biodiversity were fully understood then, it is remarkable to note that that in 1821, the Backhouse nursery in Toft Green offered 37 varieties of vines, 31 of strawberries, 170 gooseberries, 129 roses and 125 apple trees.

A trio of blue plaques ancillary to our city enhancement activities described on pages 42-45, were unveiled at the Rigg Monument, the John Snow Memorial, and the gates of the former playing fields of Archbishop Holgate's School.



#### Edna Crichton plaque (2017)

The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor, Cllr Barbara Boyce with previous women Lord Mayors following the unveiling of the plaque to Edna Crichton (Nigel Kirby)

*"This was certainly one of the more enjoyable events I've been to so far"*  
the new Lord Mayor  
Cllr Barbara Boyce

One of the more entertaining plaque events of the year took place at the Pavilion Hotel in June 2017. We remembered John Barry (Prendergast), the composer of film music, including music from the James Bond and Star Wars films. Attended by his widow and son and by many of his fans, the event attracted much public attention, including film reports on BBC *Look North* and ITV *Calendar*. We gave no less than fifteen media interviews on the day.

Edna Annie Crichton became a personal favourite of the plaque team. Her plaque was installed in June at her former home in Clifton. The first woman Lord Mayor of York (following more than 600 men) she had a remarkable career as an independent politician. As Chair of the Housing Committee she was responsible for the building of more than 5000 new homes. The event was even more special because the plaque was unveiled by the new Lord Mayor for 2017-18 and her all-woman civic party – another first for York.

Our last plaque of the year marked the site of Terry's Chocolate Factory off Bishopthorpe Road. Linked to the opening of the Henry Boot residential development, The Chocolate Works (winner of a York Design Award (see page 32), the plaque was unveiled by members of the Terry family. It will be followed by a plaque to Joseph Terry, founder of the dynasty, at his first shop in St Helen's Square.



#### Terry's Chocolate Factory plaque (2017)

Unveiled by members of the Terry family (Nigel Kirby)

# Membership



## Out to recruit new members (2017)

Trustee Stephen Lewis and Membership Committee volunteer Dr Trevor Julian (David Fraser)

Membership numbers have been fairly constant for some long time but that all changed as a result of our Civic Day event “Getting to know your York” held on Friday and Saturday 23 and 24 June 2017.

It has long been thought that there could be an untapped reservoir of support for the Trust amongst the citizens of York. What was required was an easily accessible and profiled event that would allow us to demonstrate our knowledge and commitment to both preserving and enhancing the very best of our built environment. With this in mind we organised a two-day event in St Sampson’s Square. The central proposition was 24 free guided walks around some of York’s most interesting or simply intriguing features such as Medieval Shops and Houses, War Memorials and Bridges. The backdrop would be a large marquee with stalls displaying our work: Education, Projects and Plaques, Planning and Campaigns, Fairfax House, Events and Membership.

“Getting to know your York” proved to be a great success. Over 450 guided walks were provided to 400 individuals whilst many more visited our exhibition. Almost £650 was generated through donations and book sales, and press coverage both before and after the event was extensive. Most important of all, we signed up over 60 new members, a tremendous result. This would not have happened without the 30 or so volunteers who gave their time freely. And it was great fun too.

Whilst the planning of our Civic Day was underway, we were also rolling out the second major initiative of the year. This is our outreach programme of presentations. The talks offer an insight into the Trust’s workings and its history in addition to some

## Civic Day event (2017)

Getting to know your York (Michaela Dobson)

special aspect of our heritage, depending on the interest of the audience. The programme has led us into developing a new membership brochure, a comprehensive visual record of the Trust’s past achievements and a new and consistent “house style”. To date a presentation has been offered to our affiliates and to other organisations that have approached us. In the current calendar year we expect to make 15 or so presentations to such diverse bodies as Selby Civic Society, the York Chinese Association and Probus Poppleton. The underlying purpose is once again to promote knowledge of the Trust and its activities and to recruit new members.

On a final note we thank Jill Waterson for her sterling work as Membership Secretary, keeping our records straight and providing an essential link between the in-house team and our members. Also special thanks to Dr Trevor Julian for leading the way with our affiliates and the outreach programme. We extend a warm welcome to Sarah Opie and Stephen Lusty who have recently joined the team.

As we go to print we have 1145 individual and 34 corporate members, an overall increase of 82 on this time last year. In addition we have 64 affiliated societies.

*We signed up over 60 new members, a tremendous result*

# Treasurer's Report

Extracts from York Civic Trust's two principal financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2017, namely the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet, are set out on pages 53 to 54. These show that the Trust had an excellent year in financial terms.

A revenue surplus on unrestricted funds, ie those funds for which Trustees have full discretion as to how they may be used, of £85k was achieved in the year as compared with a shortfall of £18k in the previous year. The results were particularly influenced by income from legacies amounting to £89k, for which Trustees are very grateful. Admissions income at Fairfax House was 19% higher than in 2015-16, partly attributable to a modest increase in footfall (as compared with a reduction at similar sized museums in York), together with the decision to apply an additional charge for access to the exhibition. On the expenditure side, most costs were similar to the previous year with total expenditure just £3k higher.

There was also a surplus of £41k on restricted funds, ie those funds which must be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor or grant provider. Donations and other income to the City Enhancement Fund amounted to £84k as compared with £5k in 2016. These include an anonymous donation of £30k and also the generous donation by Sir Ron Cooke of all proceeds from his book *York: changing the face of the city*. Expenditure by the Fund amounted to £41k as compared with £2k in the previous year - serving to illustrate the considerable growth in activity of the City Enhancement Programme.

The Trust's investment holdings had a strong year. The market value increased by £369k over the 12 months, as compared with the decline of £130k in 2015/16. World stock markets, where the majority of the Trust's funds are invested, rose as a result of continuing low interest rates and further evidence of modest economic recovery from the financial crash of 2008/09. The Trust's holding of overseas investments also benefited from the decline in the value of sterling following the Brexit vote.

The combined outcome of the surpluses on Unrestricted and Restricted funds, and the increase in value of investments, was an increase in the level of the Trust's funds over the twelve months of £495k. The result shows total funds at 31 January 2017 of £6,642k.

Separate figures, before the allocation of investment income, for Fairfax House as extracted from the Annual Accounts but not separately audited are set out on page 55.

During the year, and after a tender process, BHP Chartered Accountants was appointed as auditors of the Trust. The Trustees are grateful to the previous auditors, JWPCreers LLP, for their services over many years.

I should like to acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of members, staff, and volunteers for all their hard work and support.

Michael Sturge  
Treasurer

## YORK CIVIC TRUST CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2017

	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	2017 Total £'000	2016 Total £'000
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
<i>Voluntary Income</i>				
Membership	29	-	29	29
Donations and legacies	89	-	89	4
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>				
Shop sales	36	-	36	39
<i>Investments</i>				
Investment income	142	-	142	134
Rental income	75	-	75	73
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>				
Admissions	114	-	114	98
Grants received	-	24	24	8
City Enhancement Fund	-	85	85	4
Events and functions	33	-	33	32
Other	4	-	4	2
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>423</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<i>Raising funds</i>				
Property expenses	11	-	11	2
Shop purchases and expenses	32	-	32	41
Publicity and marketing	19	-	19	17
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Fairfax House	216	27	243	224
City Enhancement Fund	-	41	41	2
Grants and projects	9	-	9	12
Events and functions	17	-	17	15
General activities	133	-	133	129
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>442</b>
<b>NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>(19)</b>
<b>BEFORE NET GAINS (LOSSES)</b>				
<b>ON INVESTMENTS</b>				
Gains / (losses) on investments	369	-	369	(130)
<b>NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>(149)</b>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b>4,857</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>6,147</b>	<b>6,296</b>
<b>FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>5,311</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>6,642</b>	<b>6,147</b>

## YORK CIVIC TRUST

### CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AT 31 JANUARY 2017

	31 January 2017		31 January 2016	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Fairfax House Collection		1,306		1,306
Investments		3,991		3,618
Investment properties		1,100		1,100
Equipment		25		17
		<u>6,422</u>		<u>6,041</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stock		18		15
Debtors and prepayments		108		42
Cash on deposit and in hand		145		114
		<u>271</u>		<u>171</u>
<b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Creditors and Accruals		51		65
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>220</u>		<u>106</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>6,642</u>		<u>6,147</u>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>				
Restricted Funds		1,331		1,290
Unrestricted Funds				
Designated Funds		2,757		2,748
General Funds		2,554		4,857
		<u>5,311</u>		<u>4,857</u>
		<u>6,642</u>		<u>6,147</u>

These Accounts are not the statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to both the statement of financial activities and the balance sheet. The full financial statements from which this summary is derived have received an unqualified opinion from the trust's auditors, BHP LLP. These summarised accounts do not give sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. The full financial statements were approved by Trustees on 10 July 2017 and will be delivered to the Charity Commission and Companies House. The full financial statements, including the Report of Directors and the Auditors' Report, may be obtained from the charity's registered office, Fairfax House, Castlegate, York YO1 9RN.

## FAIRFAX HOUSE

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2017

	Year ended 31 January 2017		Year ended 31 January 2016	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>INCOME</b>				
Admissions (incl. Gift Aid recovery)		114		98
Events and activities		23		20
Other income (including Restricted grants)		27		13
Shop sales	36		39	
Less cost of sales	32	4	43	(4)
		<u>168</u>		<u>127</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Staff		137		132
Rent payable		23		23
Publicity and marketing		19		17
Exhibitions and events		32		27
Insurance		18		17
House expenditure		25		9
Office costs		14		18
Depreciation		6		-
Sundry		8		9
		<u>282</u>		<u>252</u>
<b>NET COST</b>		(114)		(125)

# Raising Funds



**Stephen and Anna Lusty (2016)**  
Fundraising music for Lord Mayors, whose pleasures were depicted in the Fairfax House exhibition (Stephen Lusty)

*Our membership numbers continue to rise: this is perhaps the indicator of success which gives us greatest pleasure*



**Get to know your York (2016)**  
The Trust's first attempt at organising city walks, from the Guildhall, proved popular (Michaela Dobson)

The work of the Trust would be far less successful without funds to support our activities. This year our most focussed efforts have been to support the Lord Mayor's Charities. For the year from May 2016 to May 2017, the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor Councillor Dave Taylor nominated York Civic Trust, alongside the LGBT Forum, the Racial Equality Forum and St Nicholas Fields as his chosen charities.

To play our part in this effort, a team from the Civic Trust led by Stephen Lusty has actively supported fund-raising events in the city. These have been numerous and have included curry suppers, golf tournaments, the Lord Mayor's Ball, an Assize of Ale as well as some thirty other imaginative events.



The York Civic Trust staged a number of events of its own:

- a costumed entertainment in Fairfax House: 'In Pursuit of Lord Mayors' Pleasures' – a tongue-in-cheek look in the presence of the mayoral party at the misdemeanours, quirks and amusing episodes in the lives of Lord Mayors past and present.
- a weekend of city walks from a Guildhall base under the title 'Getting to know your York'. This event, comprising some 30 city walks, found favour with more than 600 participants, and was subsequently repeated as part of our membership recruitment drive.
- a Civic Trust Raffle, which members and others took part in, also contributed to the final total.

The Lord Mayor's Charities will benefit the Civic Trust to the tune of some £10,000, and we are very grateful to the Lord Mayor himself; to the Trust fund-raising team who gave much energy and time in running and supporting the events; and to all of those members who contributed by taking part.

Other fund-raising activities have continued, and two are worthy of special mention. Subscriptions from members continue to rise as our membership numbers continue to rise: this is perhaps the indicator of success which gives us greatest pleasure.

Finally, we are pleased and humbled that our late members continue to remember us by leaving gifts in their wills. Legacies can make a real difference in enlarging the scope of our work either by enabling us to embark upon specific capital projects; or by the creation of designated endowments to fund our ongoing work.

# Our Volunteers

The work of York Civic Trust and Fairfax House would be impossible if it were solely carried out by Trustees and paid staff. We rely completely on the army of volunteers listed below who give freely of their time and effort. The largest single group in the list below is room hosts in Fairfax House who provide essential support to visitors and also provide security for the collections. This is the first time we have compiled a consolidated list of active volunteers. It is very possible we have inadvertently missed out important members of our collegiate family – please let us know if you or a colleague have been omitted by accident.

Charlotte Adcock  
Madeline Alldridge  
Kate Andrews  
Robert Arguile  
Susanna Atkinson  
Taghreed Ayaz  
Nick Banks  
Mary Barnett  
David Barratt  
Michael Beckett  
Nick Beilby  
Denise Berry  
Helena Biddle  
Stuart Birkett  
Derek Blades  
Chris Bloor  
Sue Bradley  
Mary Brewster  
Peter Brown  
Carol Brunson  
Wendy Bundy  
Eleanor Burbridge  
Darrell Buttery  
Heather Cahill  
Colin Campbell  
Geoffrey Carder-Geddes  
Peter Carr  
Sylverine Carr  
Eric Carter  
Pam Carter  
Aileen Chaplow  
Gill Cooke  
Adrian Cooper

Jessica Cooper-Dunn  
John Cuckson  
Sheila Cunningham  
Mark Davies  
Mary Day  
Rogan Dixon  
Simon Duckett  
Dorothy Ebdon  
Dan Edmunds  
Anthea Edwards  
Pat Emmett  
Louise Fawn  
Linda Ferguson  
John Fieldhouse  
Mike Fieldsend  
Alison Fisher  
Donalyn Fisher  
Anne Fitches  
Sue Forster  
Caroline Foster  
Lorna Foster  
Yvonne Fountain  
Philip Frith  
Sylvia Gallagher  
Kathleen Garnett  
Fiona Gibson  
Dennis Goddard  
Peter Gouldsborough  
Sue Grace  
Anne Graham  
Dave Graham  
Monica Graham  
Sue Greenwood

Helen Gregory  
Aileen Gunn  
Peter Haigh  
Bob Hale  
Helen Hale  
Anne Hall  
Christine Hanson  
Carol Harben  
Dickon Harding  
June Hargreaves  
Pam Hargreaves  
Jenny Harper  
John Harrington  
Ralph Harrington  
Vicky Harrington  
Keith Hayton  
Elizabeth Heaps  
Elspeth Henderson  
Linda Hetherington  
Pat Hill  
Les Hilton  
Val Hind  
Andrew Hingston  
Tony Hird  
Janet Hopton  
Elaine Howland  
John Howland  
Sue Hunt  
Marylin Hunton  
Vivian Irish  
John Ives  
Janet Sharpe  
June Jaques

Trevor Julian  
Beryl Kee  
Aimee Keithan  
Liz Kirkham  
Trevor Lawson  
Dorothy Lawton  
Brenda Lewin  
Betty Liversidge  
Joyce Lloyd  
Anna Lusty  
Stephen Lusty  
Ann Major  
Val Major  
Margaret Maltby  
Julia Mander  
John March  
Duncan Marks  
Greg Marsden  
Martin Marsh  
Christopher Marshall  
Diane Mawby  
Janet Mawer  
Anthony May  
Christine Mayhew  
Mary McDougal  
Alan McDougall  
Brodie McGhie-Fraser  
Kathleen McQueen  
Graham Millar  
Margaret Millar  
Linne Mooney  
Annabelle Morley  
Helen Mulholland  
Paddy Newsome  
Ena Nimmo  
Jon Ogden  
Sarah Opie  
Penny Page  
Malcolm Palmer  
Doreen Park  
John Parsons  
Frank Paterson  
Thomas Pinner  
Louise Poole  
Edward Pope  
Carol Pope  
Sheena Powley  
Margaret Preston  
Sylvia Price  
Harry Punter  
Jackie Quormby

Margaret Raines  
Sean Rawlings  
David Rayner  
Lynne Reed  
Dick Reid  
Elizabeth Reid  
Peter Richardson  
Betty Robinson  
Dawn Rossiter  
Jean Sanderson  
Alaina Schmisser  
Margaret Scott  
Becky Seakins  
Rachel Semlyen  
Colin Shepherd  
Colin Sherwood  
Malcolm Smart  
Elizabeth Smith  
Carole Smith  
Val Stamp  
David Stuart  
Linda Talbot  
Trish Taylor  
Jim Taylor  
Holly Taylor  
Kathy Taylor  
Jane Terrett  
David Thewlis  
Elizabeth Thomas  
Maureen Thomas  
Ann Thompson  
Gail Thornley  
Galina Titova  
Dinah Tysza  
Bridget Vincent  
Sandra Wadley  
Sally Walker  
Viv Walker  
Sheena Walkley  
Stella Waller  
Richard Watson  
Jean Watts  
Katherine Webb  
Gerry Webb  
Judy Webb  
Oris Webb  
Richard Wilcock  
Jacqueline Wilkes  
Ishbel Willey  
Denise Willson  
John Wilson

Jenny Winn  
Agnes Winter  
William Woolley  
Roger Wools  
Celia Wylie  
David Yates  
Sandie Young  
Karolien Yperman



**The Georgian door in Coney Street (2017)**  
with decorator Kevin Spencer  
(Nick Beilby)

## Our Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the group of people who share ultimate responsibility for governing the Trust. They are also all volunteers and give freely of their time, knowledge, and experience to take charge of our various activities. Our Trustees are:



Andrew **Scott** CBE  
(Chairman)



Peter **Addyman** CBE  
(President)



Verna **Campbell**



Sir Ron **Cooke**



Roger **Dixon**



Sue **Fisher**



David **Foster**



Kate **Giles**



Jane **Grenville** OBE



Stephen **Lewis**



Stephen **Lusty**



Patrick **Shepherd** OBE



Martin **Stancliffe**



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Deian **Tecwyn**



John **Vincent**



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*Promoting Heritage - Shaping Tomorrow*



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