

Streets of York contributes £70K windfall to three local charities

York Against Cancer, York Minster and York Civic Trust all to receive substantial donations

Photographs attached

22/2/2019

STREETS of York, last year's book and exhibition about the changing face of York's city streets, has raised almost £70,000 for local charities, organisers have revealed.

With money still trickling in, the total raised for charity so far is £66,712. The money will be split, with the largest sum going to York Against Cancer and the remainder being divided between York Minster and the York Civic Trust.

"We're delighted with the sum of money raised," said Sir Ron Cooke, the retired vice-chancellor of the University of York whose idea the book and exhibition was. "All three of the charities we supported do wonderful work. We know they'll be able to make very good use of the money raised by Streets of York."

The book was put together by Sir Ron; Darrell Buttery, the Vice-President of York Georgian Society and former President of York Civic Trust; Stephen Lewis, chief feature writer of The Press, York; and photographer Chris Shepherd.

It brought together some 200 original paintings, sketches and photographs of York streets – many from private collections and never seen in public before - and matched these with contemporary photographs by Chris Shepherd of the same locations, allowing readers to go on a journey through the history of some of York's best-loved streets.

A complementary exhibition, incorporating many of the same images, was held in the Maclagan Hall at St Williams College last November.

The entire 1,500-copy print run of the book was sold out, and thousands of people also saw the exhibition. Every penny of profit made is to go to the three nominated charities.

Julie Russell, general manager of York Against Cancer, said: "When Sir Ron asked us if we wanted to be involved, we could see that it was going to be an amazing event. We are delighted that it was so successful and that it raised so much money. Our share will make a big difference to cancer patients in York, North and East Yorkshire."

Richard Shephard, lay canon at York Minster, said: "The exhibition was a huge success and we are extremely grateful for the generous donation. We will make very good use of it!"

York Civic Trust chief executive David Fraser added: "Streets of York was a wonderful exhibition and a fascinating book. The amount raised just shows how popular York's history and heritage are. We'll

use our share of the proceeds to continue promoting and preserving that heritage - and helping to shape the debate about the city's future."

Sir Ron said the whole project was only possible thanks to an army of volunteers – from those who wrote the book, to those who helped mount the exhibition, and manage receptions and special events. "There were more than 100 volunteers who gave their time. It just couldn't have happened without them," he said.

As well as raising a substantial amount of money for charity, the book and exhibition also made a real contribution to our understanding of the way York's streets have evolved over the centuries, Sir Ron said.

"We hope that everyone who bought the book or visited the exhibition enjoyed a walk down Memory Lane and is now in a better position to use the past to judge proposals for change today," he said.

Chris Shepherd said: "Matching the present-day street locations with old views was quite a challenge at times. Some scenes have changed so much over the centuries, that help from experts was needed to identify the locations. But that's what we think made Streets of York so special. We think it will have helped people to see the city with new eyes."

Stephen Lewis said: "It was enormous fun tracking down the old photographs used to illustrate Streets of York. We all learned some very surprising things about this city we all thought we knew so well. We hope those who bought the book or saw the exhibition did too!"

Darrell BATTERY joked that he had come down with flu as soon as he started working on the project. "I told Ron the only good thing about being ill was that it gave me far more time to work on the publication," he said. "Ron replied: 'Yes! Don't get well soon!'"

Sir Ron does not deny this.

Meanwhile, for those who missed out being able to buy a copy of the book before it sold out last year, there may be hope.

"Requests for copies of the book are still coming in, so we are hoping we might be able to find a sponsor for a reprint," Sir Ron said.

PHOTOS



Photo caption: The Streets of York team, pictured outside St William's College where the exhibition was held. Back, l-r: Darrell Buttery and Richard Shephard. Front, l-r: Chris Shepherd, Marion Blacker, Sir Ron Cooke, Stephen Lewis, Duncan Beal and Clare Brayshaw.

MORE INFORMATION

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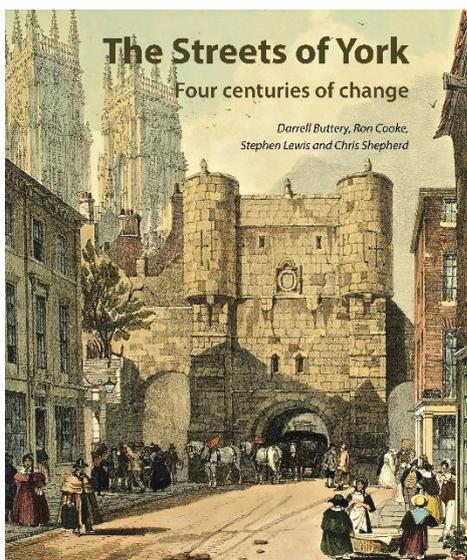
York Civic Trust: 01904 655 543

NOTE TO EDITORS

The Streets of York: Four Centuries of Change, was published by Sir Ron Cooke and printed by York Publishing Services, priced £30. It was available at the discount price of £20 to anyone who visited the Streets of York exhibition. 150 copies of a special signed edition of the book were also sold at £100 each.

Many of the paintings and sketches featured in the book were reproduced from originals in public and private collections, including York Art Gallery and The Merchant Adventurers Company.

From the book 'Streets of York'



Walk the streets of York and you're walking through history.

It's all around you, in the medieval masonry, ancient weathered timbers and fragments of borrowed Roman stone that crop up in the buildings you walk past.

Many of the street patterns are little changed from medieval or Viking times. But that is not to say that time has stood still in York. The city's streets have changed over the years - sometimes dramatically so.

Those streets are an essential part of what makes York such a great place to live, work and visit. For centuries, they have attracted a succession of conservationists, artists, photographers, authors, craftsmen, job-seekers, and tourists. Many of these left a record of the city they knew and loved, in the form of paintings, sketches and photographs.

Using a unique collection of some 200 of these original paintings, sketches and photographs, matched with contemporary photographs by Chris Shepherd of the same locations, this book seeks to take you on a journey through the history of some of York's best loved streets. You'll be able to follow the way those streets have changed over the centuries, mourning what is lost but also rejoicing that so much has been saved. The book also provides food for thought about how we want to see York grow and develop in the years to come.

The Streets of York provides an invaluable pictorial work of reference for all those who love the city, strive to understand its heritage, and appreciate that its future and fortune is to a great extent dependent upon careful and thoughtful restoration, conservation and management.