



Newsletter

It feels that summer has been and gone already - and it's only August. But there's still plenty happening in Dronfield. We're particularly concerned about litter – raised by one of our members earlier in the year and have decided to work with our councils to take action. We're also concerned about some of our buildings and are working with our local Conservation Area officer to see what can be done.

John Harvey - Chair

Litter – who cares?

Well, Civic Society members do, (see our last newsletter on this



topic: Ed). To coordinate our anti-litter programme,

committee member David Hallam will take the lead as a single contact point to whom members may email their concerns, report regular litter black spots, overflowing litter and recycling bins, fly tipping etc. similar to the disgraceful example found on Cowley Lane recently. Positive action by the Civic Society resulted in prompt removal along with similar dumping on Sicklebrook Lane and Mill Lane. Contact: davidhallam132@btinternet.com or ring the NEDDC 'green line' direct on 01246 217610.

A useful face to face meeting was held with Steve Brunt, Street Scene Services Manager, North East Derbyshire District Council. Leading on from that meeting we expect to have a more positive response to our concerns and requests for action from the Authority in the future. In the short term it is hoped to organize a clean-up of litter from the river Drone as it flows through the town. Volunteers will be required so watch your emails for details and prepare your wellies. Take a look at www.litterheroes.co.uk

Frith Wood and the Unstone Loop Line

The Civic Society continues to have concerns about these two areas currently managed by the County Council's Three Valleys team. At our request the Three Valleys team arranged for two public meetings – one for each area- to report on their plans and to hear from the public. Unfortunately each meeting was planned for only one hour and started at 6 p.m. – not the most convenient time for most people. Consequently it was not possible to deal with all matters and people were left feeling that there is not a genuine desire for public involvement in the work of this team. The Civic Society is strongly of the view, which we know is shared by our friends in the Dronfield and District Natural History Society, that Frith Wood and the Unstone Loop Line are valuable local amenities which local people care strongly about and therefore whose views should be taken seriously. We will continue to press the management of the project on this and keep you informed.

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- Buildings at Risk
- Frith Wood and Unstone Loop Line – update
- DCS Annual Award

Other news

- FoDS
- Events for the autumn
- Street Pride - Update



Buildings at risk in the Conservation areas

The Civic Society and the Old Dronfield Society recently met with Allan Morrison, *Historic Buildings Adviser at Derbyshire County Council* and Lisa Walton, *Conservation Areas officer at NEDDC*, to discuss how both could support the work of the District in the three conservation areas in the Town - *Dronfield, Dronfield Woodhouse and Coal Aston*. All three are showing signs of degradation which is of concern, but we are also aware of the limited resources of the local authorities.

Other towns and villages in Derbyshire have in the past received funding from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund, matched by councils, and has funded improvements and enhancements in Conservation areas. Dronfield has never received such funding and so one outcome is to investigate the potential for grants. We agreed to survey buildings in the Town to identify those 'at risk'. Both English Heritage and Derbyshire County Council have 'at risk' registers and a walk round the Dronfield conservation area by our group identified a number of buildings at various stages of risk due to unsafe guttering, slipped slates, rotting window frames and the like. The coach house at *The Swan* public house has already been put on the 'At Risk' register and the Brewery approached by the Council to ask what it intends to do about it.

Details of Dronfield's listed buildings are on the English Heritage web site <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>. The Derbyshire buildings 'At Risk' register can be found at http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/conservation/buildings_risk_register/default.asp Do you know of any buildings at risk? Would you like to join us to identify such buildings? If you are interested let us know.

Advance Notice - The Annual Dronfield Lecture - Friday 14 Oct 2011 - 7.30 p.m. at the Peel Centre

Once again the Annual Dronfield Lecture is co-sponsored by the Civic Society and the Peel Centre Trustees. The speaker is Alexandra Sitwell, daughter of Sir Reresby Sitwell, who inherited Renishaw Hall following his death in 2009. She will be talking about '**Renishaw Hall - Then and Now**'. Tickets will be available from September - but make a note of the date in your diary now.

The Cruck Barn, Church Street

We recently supported the recent planning application to convert the barn for residential purposes. This has now been approved. We have also now received from English Heritage their revised description for this Grade 2 listed building. This revision took place as a result of the Civic Society asking English Heritage to survey the barn because we felt it was at risk and being empty provided an opportunity to conduct a detailed survey. The listing can be found on the Heritage Gateway site (*see above*)



Street Pride Update - Our audits of the three conservation areas in the town are now complete and we are engaged in collating the information in order to create a document that is capable of being viewed both electronically and as a hard copy. This is taking longer than expected which is in part due to our less than expert IT skills. The current aim is to publish the document, which will also include items of particular concern outside the conservation areas, during October of this year.

Having agreed numerous examples of unnecessary street clutter with Highways Department, we are disappointed that so few of them have so far been removed. Also, to our dismay, when the recent modifications to the 20 mph Zone were installed, new signs were erected at the Civic Centre that effectively announced that drivers entering the Civic Centre car park could now speed-up to 30 mph, which is hardly appropriate. Although Highways have agreed to remove the signs they remain in place.

Traffic Issues

The Civic Society has been invited to be a member of the Town Council's Road Safety committee and we recently attended the first meeting of this group which is chaired by the Mayor, Councillor Doug Oxspring. We do welcome the positive approach the Town Council is taking to traffic issues in the Town and we look forward to working with them to tackle some of the challenges. The Civic Society believes that dealing successfully with making Dronfield a safer place for motorists and pedestrians can only be achieved by looking at the Town as a whole rather than the current piecemeal approach.

The much needed, but watered down, amendments to the 20 mph zone have now been installed. Unfortunately, having campaigned for additional traffic calming measures for such a long time it is disappointing to find that they are proving to be ineffective. More radical methods, together with enforcement, are necessary if the Zone is to work as intended. Speeding elsewhere in the town remains a problem.

FoDS

Dronfield station now has a reminder of the town's industrial past. Passengers and passers by on 'Dronfield bottom' can enjoy the sight of a flower-planted pit tub set on track commemorating the railway's connections with both mining and rail manufacture in the 19th century. The original idea came from Civic Society former chairman, Bob Clough, and in addition to Rotary's generosity in purchasing the truck, a donation of £250 from the CS, combined with the project management skills of member David Hallam for its installation, have all contributed to a very successful venture.



Compliments are also being received on the wild flowers that now cover the bank beside the footpath to Platform 2. After much hard slog, clearing away nettles, brambles etc. plus the litter of ages, not to mention 78 bags of chippings kindly dumped by the Network Rail tree fellers, the area was sown with 'pictorial meadow' seed which is providing a continuous blaze of colour that should continue through to the autumn and beyond. The idea came as a result of the 2009 Dronfield Lecture by Nigel Dunnnett of Sheffield University who initiated the use of wild flower mixes to beautify the urban landscape.

+++ Events +++

In times gone by – November 16th

Make a note in your diary for an interesting talk by Society Member – Mike Romano

Mike gained his BSc and PhD at Liverpool University and trained essentially as a palaeontologist - a fossil man.

He lectured in the Department of Geology at Sheffield University from 1968 until his retirement a few years ago. Since the 1990s his research interest has concentrated on dinosaur footprints, primarily from the east coast of Yorkshire and he continues with this research, hopefully for some time yet!



Nominations invited for the first Dronfield Civic Society Award

Our last newsletter announced our plans for this Award and you now have a chance to nominate your choice for this award. The Award – *and there could be more than one in any particular year*- can be made to individuals, businesses, local organisations, local authorities or other statutory bodies and aims to recognize best practice in improving the local environment..

Examples of activities and projects (not an exclusive list) which could qualify for this award include

- A new building
- The restoration of an old building or feature
- A new shop front sensitive to the conservation areas in the town
- Improvements in the local street scene – pavements, walls, roads
- The removal or improvement of a significant eyesore
- Improvement of open spaces or gardens

Applicants for the Award can be self-nominated or nominated by others and the award winner or winners will be selected by a panel which includes the Town Mayor, another Dronfield organisation and the Civic Society. The Award itself will be a framed certificate and will be presented at the Civic Society's AGM in May.

Nominations should be sent to the Civic Society by January 31st 2012 and should be forwarded to the Secretary, Dronfield Civic Society, 7 Forth Avenue, Dronfield Woodhouse, Derbyshire, S18 8ZG Please use the form below or download from the Civic Society Web site.

Dronfield Civic Society Award - Nomination Form

Name of Proposer : _____

Address of Proposer : _____

Tel: _____ E-mail Address : _____

Name of the person, organization, company being proposed :

Contact details : _____

Reasons for the nomination (*In particular what is the contribution to improving the Dronfield scene – please include a photograph if appropriate*)

Snippets - - - - -

Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012

Some members have shown interest in this forthcoming event and are asking how we are proposing to commemorate it. Accordingly the committee welcomes any suggestions from members as soon as possible. Please email us at enquiries@dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk

Dronfield Goes Wild - 16th July - As part of our support to the Lea Brook Valley Project, we assisted with setting up, and mounted and manned a display on our activities.

Coal Aston Gala - All were pleased to see again the Spitfire flyover as part of the festivities, a feature which was instigated by the Society in 2007.