

Message from the Chairman



At last year's AGM I announced several new initiatives for Louth Civic

Trust. These were designed to keep our existing members informed, raise the profile of LCT and importantly, encourage new members.

The website www.louthcivictrust.org was launched and we have now produced two extremely informative leaflets - **Living in A Conservation Area** and **Discover the Places and Spaces Below Louth's Skyline**. In addition it was proposed to join the new national organisation, Civic Voice.

I am therefore extremely pleased to announce that we recruited several new members to join LCT and I have co-opted two new members to join the Council.

I hope you enjoy reading the second LCT news and look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 28 April 2011.

James Laverack BLE, MRICS
Chairman, Louth Civic Trust

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Louth Trust joins national civic movement

Following discussions at the last AGM, Louth Civic Trust agreed to pledge its support to the aims of the national organisation CIVIC VOICE and became a founder member.

James Laverack, Chairman of LCT said, "As a society, we wholeheartedly agree with the aims of Civic Voice and could see the benefits of being part of an organisation that could speak for societies across the country, voicing our concerns and campaigning on our behalf. As a society we will benefit from partnerships with other organisations such as the NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) and National Trust. We can also take part in national campaigns such as Street Pride – a campaign to rid our streets of unnecessary clutter and the campaign to influence Government planning reforms to name just two."

As part of the new organisation LCT members will be able to keep in touch with key issues and the efforts and activities of other civic societies through regular news and information bulletins. **Each member is also entitled to a free full day pass providing access to any National Trust property during normal opening hours.** Instructions on how to obtain your free pass can be found in the back page of this newsletter. If any members are already National Trust members they may transfer the pass to family or friends.



Civic Voice President Griff Rhys Jones

James added "I would encourage everyone to take a look at their website www.civicvoice.org.uk it gives details of all the current campaigns and has some excellent information resources. Also, let us have your email address if you wish to receive the news bulletins and we will forward them on to you and if you are really into new media you can follow them on Twitter!"



Civic Voice works to make the places where everyone lives more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive. We speak up for civic societies and local communities across England. We promote civic pride. We are the national charity for the civic movement and have a strong local presence. We know how people feel about places because we feel the same way.

www.civicvoice.org.uk/about/mission/ 1/11/10

LCT's supermarket dash

Would an out of town supermarket benefit the town? LCT plans to research the cost of a shopping basket of produce in town centre shops and an out of town supermarket.

Louth Civic Trust takes pride in the town's vibrant economic centre with its mixture of independent retailers and larger chains. We also have two supermarkets within walking distance of the town centre.

However, whilst looking at a planning proposition for a Lidl supermarket in an out of town location, we were forced once again to consider the effects of such a store on the sustain-

ability of our town centre and its cultural and economic heritage. During our discussion the issue of access to cheaper food for residents on lower incomes was also raised and it was decided to put this argument to the test to see how our town centre stood up to the challenge.

A research project is currently being designed to take a shopping basket of items and price them in both an out of town supermarket and in Louth town



centre. If anyone would like to get involved in this project they can contact the Chairman T. 01673 844249.

AGM 2011

LCT's Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 28th April at 7.30pm at the Conoco rooms of Louth Library.

As well as the brief formalities there will be the prestigious "Pride of Place" awards followed by a talk by our guest speaker Geoff Wright entitled "Sleaford Pride in the 21st Century" In addition there will be light refreshments and a complementary glass of wine. **So please come along and why not bring a friend!**

Pride of Place awards

Two Pride of Place Awards are due to be awarded for 2011 at the forthcoming AGM on 28th April.

The Trust award scheme aims to recognise the achievement and commitment of those who have made a difference to the quality of the town's

built environment

We will then be calling for nominations for the 2012 Awards. If anyone is aware of any projects in the Louth or surrounding area that merits consideration for an award then please contact the Chairman James Laverack on T. 01673 844249

Louth Civic Day...let's make it happen

Civic Day 2011 is an exciting new initiative for civic societies and amenity groups across England to showcase what they are doing and to involve more people in learning about where they live.

Civic Day 2011 is being coordinated by Civic Voice taking the lead from the Yorkshire and Humber area who have successfully run a Civic Week for the

last three years, giving a focus for activity for their local societies to get involved with.

There has already been support pledged by many societies across the county and Bourne, Grimsby and Cleethorpes, Skegness and Stamford have already expressed a desire to participate in Lincolnshire.

There are plans to hold open days,

undertake surveys, work with local schools, organise guided walks, treasure hunts, photographic competitions, or quiz nights. Louth Civic Trust aims to have its own Civic Day. This is scheduled to take place later this year.

If anyone has any ideas for Louth Civic Day and would be prepared to get involved then please contact the our Chairman on T. 01673 844249.

PVCu in Louth's Conservation Area



Some years ago, fearing the potential damage to our Conservation Area of PVCu windows in period cottages, Louth Civic Trust asked English Heritage to apply an Article Four Direction on doors and windows. Sadly this rule seems to be abused by both house-

holders and ELDC Planning Department.

Earlier this year The Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire was awarded the funding for a pilot three year Heritage At Risk project. LCT council member Jean Howard recently invited Project Officer Matthew Godfrey and Liz Bates Historic Buildings Manager to visit specific areas of Louth and they were dismayed.

They have offered to co-host with us an event to raise awareness of the thoughtless and needless damage being done to our heritage. Two nationally known speakers have been invited to make presentations and we await their response

Grot Spot challenge



This issue's Grot Spot is the western end of the Gatherums.

The area immediately behind several restaurants and takeaways on Aswell Street is a real eyesore with litter, wheelie bins and even an abandoned fridge. What a shame that a scenic walk along the historic Gatherums is marred by this Grot Spot.

Back to the beginning

First meeting of Civic Trust

A Louth Civic Trust was formed at this meeting on Thursday. On the right is the acting secretary, Mr. J. T. Yates. From the left, Mr. F. A. Porter-Smith, Lincoln, who spoke on the work of civic trusts, Mr. Peter Sutcliffe (acting chairman), and Mr. P. H. Green, chairman of the Grimsby trust. Below a section of the audience. (Photos: Northgate Studio, Louth.)

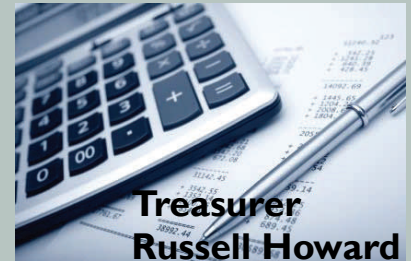


A newspaper article recently came to light that recorded the formation of the Louth Civic Trust in 1967.

These were the faces at the inaugural meeting, you may recognise some of them!

In the spotlight

In this issue we talk to our Treasurer Russell Howard and find out about his work for the Trust. Russell Howard has been a



Civic Trust member for over 30 years and has been Treasurer since 2007. The role of treasurer is vital for any charitable organisation and as a retired Chartered Accountant Russell looks after all financial aspects of running the charity including submitting necessary reports to Companies House.

Russell has a passion for the historic, not just architecture, but WW2 aviation (particularly the RAF in Lincolnshire), classic cars, railways and naval history.

Commenting on his time with the Civic Trust Russell said, "I love to visit other market towns looking at how they have or have not managed to maintain their character. I along with many visitors, really appreciate how the unchanged mediaeval street pattern, the shops, churches, houses and independent proper shops all combine to make Louth unique."

"The finances although important are a fairly unexciting part of being a member of the Trust council. However I do look forward to being able to reward good practice through our award scheme and I think the drive to raise our profile through the website and campaigns have been exciting developments. We really do need to heighten awareness of the qualities of Louth and district among the local community." Russell is also a little camera shy!

Welcoming our new Council members

Mary Abbott

Mary moved to Little Carlton in 1983 and after living near the city of Sheffield, took a while to settle into the slower pace of life.



“I had to learn that when one goes into a shop, gets on a bus, or walks along

a lane, it is just rude not to engage in conversation, or at least say hello. I moved to Louth three and a half years ago and find it has a real buzz and a heart unlike many market towns. I have always enjoyed delving into the history of wherever I live and I find the old buildings in and around Louth particularly interesting as well as being beautiful and special.”

“So, finding I lived in the Conservation Area how could I not join the Civic Trust? I really enjoy the meetings and feel that all views are relevant and the more people who love this area the better. Whilst moving with the times, we must look after and protect our area and I am happy to be part of a group that does just that.”

Pat Harrison

Pat moved to Louth three years ago from Staffordshire. Pat had previously been part of the Civic Society in her village in Staffordshire and so was naturally keen to find out about the Civic Trust's activities on Louth.

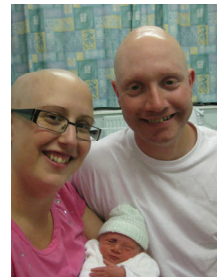


“I live in the Conservation Area and I love the buildings here. I have been particularly impressed by the number of old cottages that are being restored which create a really attractive living environment. I also love the open spaces, there are some really attractive areas and people are very sociable especially when you have a dog!”

“I help out at the theatre so this and becoming a member of the Civic Trust have been a great way of getting involved in my new community. Although I don't have endless time to give I like to keep up to date with what is happening and get involved where I can.”

Best Wishes to Louise and Family

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Louise and Phil on the birth of their son Oscar on 16 September 2010. Louise has been our Minutes Secretary since 2008 and is currently taking a break whilst on maternity leave and undergoing treatment for her recently diagnosed breast cancer. So we wish Louise and her family all the very best.



Future Events

We would like to inform members of the following Louth Naturalist's Antiquarian and Literary Society events:

Summer Visits 2011

Sunday 22 May (2pm) Guided walk around Caistor led by Alan Dennis

Sunday 26th June (9.30—5.30pm)

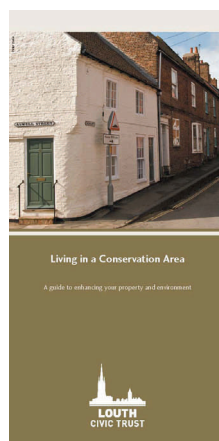
Deserted Medieval Villages lead by David Start FSA

For booking and information on future events contact The Museum T. 01507 601211

Stepping up awareness campaign

As part of the campaign to encourage involvement with LCT's work and engagement with our architectural and historical environment we are planning to distribute our new “Living in a Conservation Area” leaflet to residents of the Conservation Area.

The leaflet outlines the specific characteristics of Louth's Conservation Area and how owners can enhance their property, street and environment. We already have volunteers to distribute leaflets in some areas of the conservation area but are calling on members to ask if they can help to with leaflet



distribution in their local area. If you think you can help then please contact the Chairman T. 01673 844249.

Get involved today

Five ways you can get involved in LCT activities today:

- 1 Visit the Civic Voice website and find out about their current campaigns. www.civicvoice.org.uk
- 2 Contact the Chairman with your ideas for Louth Civic Day
- 3 Contact the Chairman to let us know if you can help distribute leaflets in the Conservation Area.
- 4 Contact relevant websites suggesting a link to www.louthcivictrust.org
- 5 Submit an article for consideration for the next issue of LCT news. Contact Kathryn Laverack kathryn@fsgdesign.co.uk.

Contact the Chairman, James Laverack T. 01673 844249
E. james@johntaylors.com

Claim your National Trust Free Day Pass

The free pass is available for LCT members to download from www.civicvoice.org.uk/nationaltrustcivicvoiceoffer or call our Chairman for the postal address.

www.louthcivictrust.org

Don't forget Louth Civic Trust is online. To increase visits to the sites if you know of any relevant sites that could provide a link to our site you could either contact them directly and recommend a link or forward the site address to the Chairman.