



# SOUTHWELL CIVIC SOCIETY

## Newsletter - October 2017

### SOME REFLECTIONS AT THE END OF MY CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SOCIETY by Brendan Haigh, Chairman

At the end of my chairmanship of the Society, I hope that you will allow me the indulgence of a short trip through some of, what to me have been, the highlights of the Society's history.

The Society was founded in 1971 as the response to such threats to the historic character of the town as the plan to demolish Sunnyside in Westhorpe. I also recall the daunting proposals of the County Council to construct an inner relief road from King Street across the backs of the Prebendal gardens in Church Street, in one of which I was later to live!

I did not join the Society until 1985 when I ceased to be a member of the County Council. My sole contribution before then was to take to London an impressive (and very heavy) portfolio of drawings for the improvement of King Street and Queen Street. This was the Society's submission for European Architectural Year in 1975 and is now displayed in the Society's room in the Old Court House. A cash prize was awarded to the Society which was used to pay for York stone paving at the entrance to Waterloo Yard.

From its earliest days the Society has opposed inappropriate development in the town and campaigned

for better building design. In particular I recall objecting to development in Halam Road which was successively held at bay for some years. When it eventually came the Society pressed for the retention of as much greenery as possible such as at Beaumont Avenue which is, in my opinion, an exemplar of how a new estate should be designed.

The Society is well known for its social programme with some events in the past being particularly ambitious including

an Alice in Wonderland banquet in the Great Hall organised and designed by David and Christine Measures, the invitation to which is illustrated below.

The Society celebrated its 25th anniversary, (a year late!) with a medieval banquet presided over by Bishop Patrick Harris, our then President.

As part of a tourist promotion by the District Council, Betty Arundel wrote "Southwell - A History Walk" which remarkably went on to sell some 20,000 copies over the next 25 years or so producing a sizable income for the Society. It was a pleasure to write a much more modest successor, "Southwell - A Walking Tour" which was published earlier this year.

Over the years the Society has made many professional contributions at Planning Inquiries into individual developments and various local plans. Most recently many of the Society's ideas were incorporated into the Southwell Neighbourhood Plan.

It has been a pleasure to work with so many dedicated colleagues and friends in pursuing the Society's ideals which remain in 2017 at least as valid and important as they were in 1971.



*Invitation to Society social  
event from 1986*

# PLANNING REPORT

by Mike Struggles, Planning Secretary

The Allocations and Development Management Options Report (ADMOR) forms the basis of housing development in Southwell until 2033. Eight sites have been allocated of which all but two have either received or are seeking planning permission despite there being sixteen years left in the plan period.

Beckett's Field is complete, Rainbow's Yard is under construction and the Old Minster School site has been saved. Of the remainder Springfield Bungalow behind Halloughton Road has had planning permission approved but has not yet been formally granted.

An application for nine houses on the Fiskerton Road depot has been refused and the developer has now lost an appeal. The Society strongly opposed this development in its present form as it contravened many aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Planning permission has been submitted for 74 dwellings on the site at the corner of Allenby Road and Halam Road. This is currently under consideration. Of the remaining sites So/Ho/4, which runs alongside Kirklington Road and So/Ho/5 running from Lower Kirklington Road up to the trail, are in multiple ownership and have received applications for parts of the sites.

The allocated site So/Ho/4 and adjacent thin strips of land, which are not in the official allocation, are a cause for concern. There have been two applications for "The Vineries". The first for only nine houses was superseded by an application for eighteen dwellings. The adjacent site is the old allotments where no application has been received.



*The proposed development on the old Fiskerton Road highways depot*

The next strip is "Brooklyn" where an application was lodged for three houses. This was excluded from So/Ho/4 as it is considered unsuitable for housing development. The application was refused and is now under appeal.

The next strip is "Franklyn" where in the last ten months there have been two other separate planning applications approved on this site, one for four houses and one for a single dwelling. An application for a tenth house was refused and is now under appeal. The Society believes that there needs to be a comprehensive scheme for the whole site.

Brackenhurst Campus continues to be developed and there have been a whole series of applications supported by the Society. Most notable is the replacement of the old 1960s accommodation blocks at the front of the Hall with a new Reception and Environment Centre.

Other applications have included a multi-faith burial ground to the east of the Minster School and the provision of holiday lodges at the golf course on Fiskerton Road.

The above applications are just a few of the almost 100 applications considered by the committee in the course of the year. The Society's response can be viewed on the NSDC website or on the Society's website "[www.southwellcivicsociety.com](http://www.southwellcivicsociety.com)"

Finally I would like to thank the members of the planning committee for their time and careful consideration of the applications ensuring that as the town develops its character is maintained and enhanced.



*The now completed Beckett's Field development on Nottingham Road*

# EVENTS REPORT

by Vanessa Johnston, Events Organiser

The Society's programme of events for this year was initiated in the Autumn of 2016 by our then Social Secretary, Katy Todd. Sadly she stepped down at the last AGM and several committee members subsequently organised these events.

In early March Michael Walker, Chair of Nottinghamshire Bat Group, gave a fascinating illustrated talk on a study of the distribution and variety of bats living in Nottinghamshire, and the group's successful application for Lottery funding for a project to map Nottinghamshire's bat species.

The following month a number of members were hosted by Lincoln Civic Trust on a tour of St Mary's Guildhall in Lincoln. A member of the Civic Trust gave a talk on the history of the Guildhall which has been restored by the Trust and is used as their office.

In May members were taken on a walk on the Brackenhurst estate led by Josh Wells and Jillian Labadz. This was to see the work already implemented on upstream natural flood management on the catchment area of the Potwell Dyke. The tour ended at Brackenhurst Hall for refreshments and a brief talk on the subject of flood management featuring the results of survey work done by Josh.

The summer garden party held at Walnut House on Burgage Lane was a great success. A large number of members and guests enjoyed the



*Some of the gazebos on the lawn of Walnut House for the Society's Summer Garden Party*

beautiful garden of Bill McCosh and Eileen Campbell. It was excellent weather for sitting outside (a rarity for this summer).

The Society had a display stall with a real Bramley apple tree beside it on Southwell Market to mark National Civic Voice Day on 17th June and this was repeated at the following weekend on the Burgage for the Town Council Fun Day.

Members of the public walking past the display were asked (with the help of some suggestions) to write, on apple shaped cardboard, their suggestions for improvements they thought might help enhance the town and its surroundings. Some very interesting ideas were put forward and the Society has taken all these to the Town Council for consideration.

During September an exhibition showing photographs from the Society's archive was produced for us by Andy Wimble who has kindly undertaken the work of archivist for the Society.

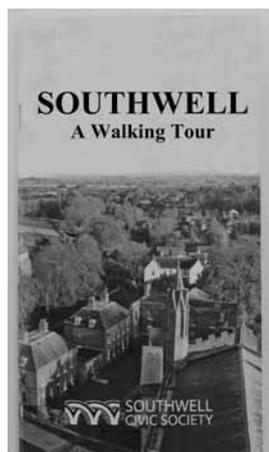
We have had our own Christmas Tree in the Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival and also helped with a display at the Heritage Open Day in Brackenhurst Hall.

Next year's social programme is already being worked on but we would be delighted if any members have suggestions for next year (or beyond) to contact Vanessa Johnston (01636 812195 or email [v.johnston100@gmail.com](mailto:v.johnston100@gmail.com))



*Members of the Society providing information on the stall on the Town Council Fun Day on the Burgage*

## SOUTHWELL - A WALKING TOUR



When the remaining stock of Betty Arundel's very successful "Southwell - A History Walk" was running out (the last were sold earlier this year) it was decided to publish a new concise and compact replacement rather than updating it with a further reprint. This new book, written by Brendan Haigh, was launched at the Old Court House on Saturday 18th March.

The new book is modelled on the Minster's pocket sized "Visitor's Companion". The popular drawings by Don Keefe are the same as in Betty's book. The printers have designed a clear colour-coded route map which is in the fold of the back cover.

Already a significant number have been sold which has gone a long way towards recovering the printing costs. The book is available from the Cathedral Shop, Gossips or Lowdham Bookshop at a price of £3.00.

## REDESIGN OF THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

The Southwell Civic Society website has been in existence for many years and had reached the stage when it needed to be updated to meet modern standards. Earlier this year the committee authorised expenditure to have the website's CMS (content management system) updated, and at the same time the website was re-designed to give it a more modern and attractive appearance.

The Society's website can be seen at [www.southwellcivicsociety.com](http://www.southwellcivicsociety.com)

The webmaster would be pleased to hear members' opinions of the new site. A copy of the Home page is shown on the right. Any comments on the site should be emailed to ([treasurer@southwellcivicsociety.com](mailto:treasurer@southwellcivicsociety.com))



## CIVIC SOCIETY EXHIBITION IN LIBRARY



*A view of the Society's photographic exhibition in the library*

During the month of September the Civic Society mounted an exhibition in the library to publicise the Society and feature some of the many images of Southwell that are in the Society's photographic archive. The displays for the exhibition were produced by Andy Wimble, the Society's archivist, and explained how and why the Society was formed, the aims and objectives of the Society and what the Society has achieved.

Old and new images of parts of Southwell from the photographic archive were used to create a "Then and Now" display. This enabled visitors to compare current well-known views of Southwell with the same scene taken many years ago. This gave a fascinating insight into some of the changes that have occurred in the town over the years.