

# OUTLOOK



**LEEDS CIVIC TRUST NEWSLETTER**  
**MARCH 2025**



MEMBERS AND GUESTS DESCEND THE STAIRCASE AT CALVERLEY OLD HALL

## **LEEDS TRAMS ON TRACK?**

Howard Dews reports on WYCA's mass transit plans

[\*\*SEE PAGE 2\*\*](#)

## **CHACO VISIT**

Garance Rawinsky's takeaways from our Chapeltown Cohousing event

[\*\*SEE PAGE 3\*\*](#)

## **ST MARY'S IN THE WOOD**

Meryll Wilford on this heritage at risk top 10 building

[\*\*SEE PAGE 4\*\*](#)

## **PLANNING ISSUES**

Mike Piet on the last month's planning news

[\*\*SEE PAGE 6\*\*](#)

## **CALVERLEY OLD HALL**

Helen Sanders on our visit to this magnificently restored building

[\*\*SEE PAGE 8\*\*](#)

## **BLUE PLAQUES, PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE**

Roderic Parker on the panel discussion at our AGM

[\*\*SEE PAGE 10\*\*](#)

ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT  
THAT IS A SOURCE OF PRIDE

CONSERVING AND ENHANCING  
THE HERITAGE OF LEEDS

PROMOTING THE IMPROVEMENT  
OF PUBLIC AMENITIES

# LEEDS TRAMS ON TRACK?

It's the way of large projects such as the tram that there is a wave of publicity which catches the headlines and then things go quiet, so you think "Is it still going to happen?" Last July there was a launch event which a few of us from the Trust attended and where potential routes for the tram were unveiled. We also had a meeting with the team at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) leading the project. Then in early February this year we again met with the team at WYCA including the new Interim Director of Mass Transit, Rob Leech. So this is to update you on what is happening. Two lines are planned for Phase 1, one from Leeds to Bradford and a second from the White Rose Centre to St James's Hospital via the centre of Leeds. Three potential routes for the Leeds-Bradford line were put forward, four options for the route through central Leeds and three between the centre of Leeds and St James's Hospital. A consultation on these proposals took place over the summer - our detailed response to this is available on the Trust website at [LCT MRT Response](#). Since then, WYCA has been busy analysing the responses and has recently published the 'outcome report' giving the results of the consultation - this can be seen at [WYCA MRT Consultation Report Feb '25](#).

Almost 5,000 consultation responses were received, with between two thirds and three quarters supporting the proposed lines (as did we). The most likely route from St James's Hospital through Leeds is via Sheepscar to the Arena, then Portland Way, past Millennium Square and The Infirmary, East Parade, Infirmary Street through City Square and past the Railway Station via Neville Street to Victoria Bridge. This route was supported by Leeds City

Council and we are content with it. The route option to White Rose Centre which had most support, and which we also supported, goes via Elland Road and Beeston Ring Road. However, we proposed a variation of this which would serve places either side of the route including Holbeck and so potentially generate more passengers.

The route options for the Bradford line were through Armley, Stanningley, Thornbury and Laisterdyke, or through Holbeck, Wortley, Pudsey and Laisterdyke, or a combination of the two. It would serve Bradford Interchange and Forster Square railway stations as well as the site for the potential new station at the Southern Gateway. Consultation responses gave similar levels of support to the options. Bus priority measures have recently been implemented through Stanningley and Armley, which have resulted in increased bus patronage, so we favoured the route via Pudsey and Wortley which would also benefit regeneration in Holbeck and the South Bank.

We will continue to keep in touch with the WYCA project team, with placemaking identified as an area where we may be able to contribute. The next milestone

will be a decision on which route options are to be adopted. A further consultation is planned to take place in early 2026 and this will contain full details of the proposed tram routes, including tram stop locations. WYCA is receiving £200m from the government to fully work up these proposals with the help of specialist consultants. It is expected that there will need to be a Transport & Works Act Order submission for consent to carry out the construction leading to a Public Enquiry, the timescale for which will be determined by the government. It will also need to confirm the availability of the estimated £2 billion plus likely to be needed for construction, with a hope that this will start in 2028.

So although the latest proposals for trams in Leeds are yet to come to fruition and it is a lengthy process or journey during which the plans could be derailed, they can be said to still be 'on track'.

## HOWARD DEWS

## MEMBER OF TRANSPORT AND LIVEABLE LEEDS GROUP & PLANNING COMMITTEE



WYCA COMPUTER GENERATED IMAGE OF A TRAM



# 'CHACO' VISIT

Our first event of the year was a visit to learn about the ups and downs of an exemplary project hatched between half a dozen people sitting around a table 13 years ago. The Chapeltown Cohousing project experience adds a whole new meaning to the word 'administration' when Bill, along with his partner Ali, first sat at that table with others.

Bill told about the numerous iterations of what and how this housing co-op has taken shape, how they managed to get the funding together (circa £5 million) from Homes England, Ecology Building Society as well as Loan Stock from numerous family and friends who believed in their vision. He briefly explained how they acquired the land from Leeds City Council (there was no competition from developers, as it was perceived as an unattractive plot of land between two major roads and, at the time, in an area where house values were relatively low). Plans were drawn up, planning permission granted, contractors commissioned. However, they were stymied by numerous builders and contractors 'going into administration', whilst everyone was having to navigate their way around Covid. So, things went on hold for a while.

A lot of time and mud later, the properties started to take shape and are now built, imaginatively landscaped and fully occupied apart from a small plot set aside for 'self-build', the footings for which were going in on one plot during our visit. We were informed that there are still two plots available, should anyone be interested.

ChaCo is built on eco-friendly principles as well as community friendly design. A place where people can enjoy the privacy of their own space, yet share facilities, ideas and experiences. A complex such as this was neither constructed nor runs of its own accord, so residents also share their expertise and time in various groups to communicate and make decisions on what they consider the best way forward. It was clear that mistakes have been made, and there are still many things that need time to shake down and take shape, but what we saw on our visit was a most impressive addition to the way we consider housing supply.

Our most convivial visit ended with 23 LCT members and friends sharing a delicious and sustaining lentil soup, bread, cake and biscuits... all to be digested along with what we had learnt. We had seen the fruits of the



GUESTS MINGLE AT CHACO

labours of a group of extraordinary people, who have achieved much of their vision to provide 29 homes, currently accommodating 42 Adults and 16 children from a multi-cultural, multi faith, cross generational group of individuals. Many of us found what we saw and all those we met truly inspirational.

## GARANCE RAWINSKY

### EVENTS COMMITTEE MEMBER

#### UNDER 30'S MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted to launch our new **Under 30s membership**. For a reduced rate of £15 per year, under 30s can become part of Leeds Civic Trust and take advantage of our networks and member benefits.

We're also throwing in a free limited edition 60th anniversary tote bag and and the opportunity to bring a friend to an event for free for Under 30s members.

If you're already a Leeds Civic Trust member and are under 30, get in touch with us and we'll switch your membership over to the discounted rate.

We'll be bringing more exclusive events and opportunities to our under 30s members over the coming year, so keep your eyes peeled and tell a friend!



PHOTOGRAPH OF CHACO HOUSING

# ST MARY'S IN THE WOOD

**Following on from the article on Canal Gardens in the December/January edition of Outlook, we are continuing with the next featured building from our Heritage at Risk List Top 10. In this article, we will consider the Church of St Mary's in the Wood in Morley.**

Whilst many of Lockwood and Mawson's landmark buildings in Bradford will be taking centre stage during City of Culture celebrations, one of their very few Leeds commissions lies derelict and neglected in a corner of Morley.

The hugely successful architectural partnership of Francis Lockwood and William Mawson began in 1849 and helped to transform Bradford in the boom period of 1850 to 1875. Readers will be familiar with much of the partnership's work in the city; St George's Hall, Bradford City Hall, the Wool Exchange and the layout of Saltaire, including Salts Mill and the magnificent United Reformed Church for Sir Titus Salt. Less familiar perhaps is their Grade II listed St Mary's in the Wood on the former site of the Old Chapel, whose tower soars behind locked gates and dense undergrowth on 'Coffin Corner' at the junction of Commercial Street and Troy Road in Morley.

In his 'History of Morley' (1874), Norrison Scatcherd writes of the close relationship between the Old Chapel and the town; 'I am desirous of paying to its ruins a passing tribute of respect, its history stands connected with events of great general and local interest'. He quotes a passage in Domesday concerning 'the Church of St Mary which is in Morley Wood'; however it has been since thought that this reference might have been to St Mary's at Whitkirk. Whatever the

validity, it is certainly an ancient site for local worship with parts of a 13th century chapel surviving within the Old Chapel in the 1830s.

Many denominations have worshipped there over the centuries including Catholics, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Independents and Congregationalists. Sir Titus Salt was born nearby in the Old Manor House on Queen Street in 1803 (now demolished). In his book 'Sir Titus Salt, his Life and Lessons' published in 1877, the Reverend R Balgarnie describes the people of Morley as 'having much of the

old Puritan spirit among them' and his belief that Titus Salt 'there received those moral and religious impressions which remained with him through his life'. The Salt family worshipped at the Old Chapel and Titus was baptised there.

By 1874 the congregation had outgrown the Old Chapel and it was demolished to be replaced by a new church, designed by Lockwood and Mawson, at a cost of £7000 and opened in 1878. Although he left Morley in 1813, it is possible that Sir Titus was instrumental in the engagement of his trusted



ENGRAVING OF MORLEY OLD CHAPEL



architects for the new church shortly before his death in 1876. Historic England's listing description (List Entry Number: 1135116) describes a church in a 'Gothic Revival simple Early English style'.

By 2008 the congregation was too small for the church and its upkeep too expensive; worship and activities transferred to St Mary's Sunday School building on nearby Commercial Street (which is also Grade II listed). The vacant church building and graveyard were sold to a developer who initially planned a hotel on the site. Objections centred on the potential risk to the substantial number of historic listed monuments in the graveyard including a 17th century mausoleum to the locally important Scatterd family.

In June 2010, shortly after the refusal of a planning application, a devastating fire destroyed the interior and valuable contents and much of the stonework was severely damaged. The culprit(s) have never been apprehended. Subsequent plans to include a rebuild were later approved but unfortunately never acted upon. The site has remained untouched and in the same ownership, its condition rendering it

unsafe for public access.

In March 2010 the Trust commented on one of the pre-fire planning applications, expressing that 'the Trust wishes to support the principle of finding appropriate alternative uses for redundant churches of architectural interest such as this' and this continues to be the aim of the Heritage Watch group. There are a number of redundant churches on the 'At Risk' list and identifying ways of bringing them back into use is challenging; one that has been all but destroyed by fire presents what seems like an insurmountable challenge.

In 2023 Leeds City Council purchased the former Sunday School building - referred to above - for use as a learning and skills centre as part of a wider development scheme known as the Morley Town Deal. The small congregation now worships at Central Methodist on Wesley Street.

Feasibility options for the St Mary's in the Wood site have been explored, but unfortunately the costs involved for development are beyond the funding envelope of the Town Deal grant. Any future scheme will require a substantial level of funding investment from both grant-

giving bodies as well as the site's owner.

In 1877 the Rev Baggallay wrote 'the highest point in the neighbourhood is the site where the church of St Mary in the Wood stood for centuries, around which many generations of inhabitants are buried and where the new Congregational Church now stands. From this commanding position the eye takes in the entire village or town nestling round it with its straggling streets, busy manufactories and old mansions surrounded by ancient trees'.

150 years later, despite extensive fire damage, the tower of St Mary's still dominates the Morley skyline. It is described in Leeds City Council's new Morley Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan as one of the two major town landmarks - the other being the Town Hall. The plan launches the newly combined and enlarged Conservation Areas and provides an excellent introduction to a town well worth rediscovering.

## MERYLL WILFORD

## HERITAGE WATCH MEMBER

## PETER HIRSCHMANN (1937-2024)

Some members, especially those who have volunteered on Planning Committee and Heritage Watch for some years, will be sad to hear that that Peter died on 19th August.

Peter was a founder member of Heritage At Risk, now Heritage Watch. He was also a member of the Victorian Society from 1990-2014, and involved with the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society and Leeds Library.

Before he retired, he was a renowned Dental and Maxillofacial Radiologist.



THE SPIRE AT ST MARY'S IN THE WOOD, THEN AND NOW. (LEFT: BY KIND PERMISSION OF LEEDS LIBRARIES, WWW.LEODIS.NET)

# PLANNING ISSUES

**Following last month's slowdown, it was up to full steam in February – although we had no presentations, there were a batch of significant planning applications to review and much news to report.**

We were able to support four major planning applications:

- in Aire Park (the regeneration of the former Tetley Brewery site), we welcomed the first residential element of the scheme – this 15 storey building containing 117 apartments features balconies to almost all flats, a good proportion of larger units suitable for families and space for a ground floor café/bar overlooking the new park
- also in Aire Park, the site of the former petrol station on Meadow

Lane is to be used (on a temporary basis) as a Padel Tennis Club – with club facilities created from shipping containers, this will add a welcome sporting facility to the city centre

- on Lovell Park Road, the charitable Harrison Potter Trust has applied for consent to replace the existing 1960s elderly persons' homes with a block of 'sheltered' apartments for twice as many residents – we felt the design of the building was well considered but more work should be done on the landscaping, and particularly the

link from Lovell Park itself to Wade Lane

- in the West End, we offered our formal support to plans for a new office block at 14 Wellington Place – we had enjoyed a presentation on the scheme a few months ago and were pleased to see that some of our suggested amendments were taken up in the final submission.

We made comments on two other applications; these were the conversion of the former LBU halls of residence at Kirkstall Brewery to apartments (we felt the opportunity should be taken to enhance accessibility on this multi-level site) and the refurbishment of a restaurant unit at Bond House on Boar Lane (from our reading of the plans, only part of the space would be accessible – and not that containing the accessible WC!).

Turning to applications where we felt an objection was merited, these were:

- Victoria Gate (Vicar Lane entrance): the applicant has proposed to install a large video advertising screen above the entrance to the new arcade – this would block the view into Victoria Gate and have an adverse effect on the adjoining Conservation Area and listed buildings
- Victoria Gate (outdoor car park): a second video screen is proposed here, facing drivers heading north on St Peter's Street alongside the bus station – we felt this would be a distraction in this busy area where there are controlled/uncontrolled pedestrian crossings and buses making complex manoeuvres
- Arncliffe, Shire Oak Road, Headingley: we have objected to previous plans to extend this listed Arts & Crafts house with adjoining



RESIDENTIAL BLOCK AT AIRE PARK



Coach House but this revised scheme is no better – it would destroy the relationship between the two buildings and damage key elements of the house and its setting

- Electric Press, Calverley Street: while welcoming reuse of the upper floors as a music school, we felt the plan to create soundproofed rooms as internal pods would impact on the external appearance – an alternative approach should be taken to preserve views of the building.

Just so you can see the range of applications that we review, here are details of those upon which we made no comment following an assessment of the documentation as submitted. These included:

- the Yorkshire Post site at Wellington Road (continued provision of adverts on the old clocktower)
- former Halifax Bank on King Edward Street (strip out modern insertions to reveal historic fabric)
- new Cancer Care Clinic at Thorpe Park (largely invisible conversion/extension of an existing office block)
- Oxford Place Chapel (use of upper floors for education purposes)
- offices at Leeds Dock (use by Leeds City College – no external changes)
- a shopfront in New Market Street (not significant in street scene) and
- Wayside Works in Holbeck (development of three blocks of apartments within a largely



ELECTRIC PRESS

residential area).

Updates on subjects discussed previously include planning consent being granted for the redevelopment of Zurich House at Canal Wharf for residential apartments, for a new block of teaching accommodation for Leeds Beckett University alongside the Rose Bowl and the installation of floodlights at a new artificial turf pitch in Middleton. We are monitoring plans for new apartments at the former Tetley Hall site in Headingley – there is tension between the developer (supported by us) who wishes to reduce car parking to enhance landscaping and LCC Highways who feel more spaces are needed. Work has started on a major residential development on Kirkstall Road – The Dyecoats will provide some 1,500 apartments (mixed tenures), riverside walkway, new footbridge and community facilities.

Other planning related matters discussed at our meetings included the following:

- the 'return to the office': the city centre office market is thriving (with a shortage of available top quality properties) but a Tuesday to Thursday working week is not helping the retail and hospitality sectors
- Leeds City Council Capital Programme: notwithstanding its financial pressures, the Council is continuing to invest in the city including new Council housing (£380m over 4 years), highway schemes (eg Dawson's Corner, Lawnswood & Beckett Street), new playing pitches (Holbeck, Woodhall & Thorpe Park), new Fearnville Sports Centre and extensions to the PIPES district heating system – many of these require specific funding applications to central government
- Aire Park: much of the first section of public park is now complete and this will be opened once the grass has settled down over the next couple of months – the site's first office tenants are moving in soon
- Mount St Mary's Church, Richmond Hill: many of the apartments in the new block have been sold and work on those in the 'replica church' will

start in the summer, along with restoration of the Chancel – the School is also looking to construct a new building but this has fallen foul of Sport England policies to retain playing space

- Kirkgate Market: a revised development strategy is being prepared but there is demand for the stalls now available in the Block Shops so new users should be in soon. The Food Court is doing well and plans for a 'Stack' container complex on part of the open market are being taken forward, as is a new Premier Inn on George Street.

Looking at transport issues, we picked up the following news:

- Bus Franchising: due to the long process involved, the first routes to be operated under the new system will be in early 2027 and there are unlikely to be major service changes in the first few years
- Mass Rapid Transit: the results of the first stage consultation are available on the WYCA website but there is general support for the project – we are maintaining our contacts with WYCA to contribute to the design process
- Leeds City Station: the current entrance works will complete in early 2026 but there are plans for further expansion in 2026-29 to meet increasing demand (new footbridge to all platforms, new entrances and revised concourse shopping)
- Transpennine Route Upgrade: there will be many significant rail route closures over the next few years as tracks are re-laid – Leeds to York should be electrified in 2029, with the route to Manchester complete by 2032.

Following Anna's departure, we have appointed a new Planning & Transport Officer, Alanah; I look forward to her assisting me and other committee members in keeping a handle on all the developments taking place in Leeds.

**MIKE PIET**

**CHAIR OF LCT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

# CALVERLEY OLD HALL



EXTERIOR VIEW OF CALVERLEY OLD HALL

Repairs and refurbishment of this Grade I listed Manor House have recently been completed by the Landmark Trust, for use as holiday accommodation. It has a fine late medieval hall, solar and chapel and as such is very rare and of considerable importance. It had become derelict, but has recently been removed from the Buildings at Risk Register. Two visits on the same day for Leeds Civic Trust members booked up quickly, and it was inspiring to see the transformation of the building. We were shown round by Linda Lockett, Project Manager for the Landmark Trust.

The earliest part of the building dates from soon after 1300, built by an incomer to Calverley. The family became known as the Calverleys, their heirs all called Walter or William. Their wealth and status increased as they added to their estates and married into other leading families in the area.

In the 1480s, the Great Hall with its huge stone fireplace was built. The impressive richly carved oak hammerbeam roof survives, high above what is now the kitchen. The chapel was also built at this time. Around 1535 the parlour

block was added; the roof timbers have been dated using tree ring dating. Later in the 16th century, the family was again outgrowing its accommodation as Sir William Calverley had 17 children with his two wives, and the Lodging Block was built.

Tragedy struck in April 1605, when a Walter Calverley, said to be overwhelmed by debt and believing his children were not his own, murdered two of his sons. He was executed in York, and the Old Hall entered a period of limbo.

In the 17th century, another Walter Calverley married a local heiress

from Esholt, and the couple made Esholt Hall their main seat. Calverley Old Hall, by now dilapidated, old fashioned, and blighted by the recent tragedy, became a minor property, and was sold. It was divided into cottages for rent, including the Chapel, Great Hall, and Solar block. The cottage tenants had no reason to make major alterations, so the shell of the medieval house remained intact, a rare and complete survival.

The village of Calverley grew rapidly in the late 19th century as today's street pattern was established, and the Old Hall became surrounded by houses. It was listed in 1966.

In 1977, the Lodging Block was gutted by fire. By now, some of the cottages were outdated and run down, and several tenants had left. In 1980, the Old Hall was put up for sale in three separate lots. The Landmark Trust made a successful offer for the whole building to keep it in one ownership, aiming to initially restore the fire damaged Lodging Block and gradually restore the rest. The cottages of existing tenants were kept in good repair until they chose to vacate, and the rest was kept wind and weathertight.



THE PAINTED CHAMBER



The Landmark Trust is a charity founded in 1965, which rescues buildings of historic interest or architectural merit and then makes them available for holiday rental. Those who rent Landmarks provide a source of funds to support restoration costs and building maintenance. Landmark properties include forts, farmhouses, manor houses, mills, cottages, castles, gatehouses, follies and towers and represent historic periods from medieval to the 20th century.

The northwest wing of the Old Hall was already empty in 1981, and this was repaired and converted, making it available as a 3-bedroomed holiday let from 1982. Work continued to repair and maintain other parts of the building, particularly the roof and chapel, as tenants left. Eventually it was decided to make the Great Hall, Solar Block, and Parlour Block into a larger holiday let, while the Lodging Block was to become a community space.

Landmark then held a national architectural competition to find the best idea for a contemporary design approach, while also making the building as energy efficient as possible. The competition was won by Cowper Griffiths Architects of Cambridge. There followed several years of fundraising, with funding

coming from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Culture Recovery Fund, as well as numerous other trusts and Landmark supporters.

Work started in 2021 and was completed in 2024, using a local building firm who proved to be excellent (LCT Corporate Member, Dobson Construction). Traditional craft skills and materials were used throughout. The building is heated by ground source heat pumps from six deep bore holes which take heat from the ground to warm water for underfloor heating and domestic use. A lift has been installed, often difficult to achieve in an historic building without undue damage.

Amazingly, during the course of the work, some historic wall painting was discovered hidden behind later lath and plaster. This was gradually removed, revealing an extensive painting scheme, dated to 1545-1550. Wall paintings were not unusual in southern England in the Tudor period, but nothing quite like the Calverley paintings are known to have survived. Done in red, white, and black pigments on a gypsum base, they show a carefully planned and executed design of fantastical beasts and scrolling foliage. The heads of people and animals appear in roundels, and everything has been planned to match the runs of timber posts and plaster panels.

This has been painstakingly cleaned by a team of conservators, and has been left uncovered.

The holiday home which has been created sleeps up to ten people in five bedrooms, and has been open since October. Reviews from visitors refer to the very comfortable accommodation equipped with all the modern conveniences one could wish for, but without losing any of the essential character and charm of such an historic building. One visitor commented on the privilege of being allowed to sleep in the painted chamber.

There is also a separate community room with a kitchen, which is available to hire by the local community. The chapel is also frequently open to visitors.

For those who missed this visit, Calverley Old Hall is open to the public again on 17 and 18 May- see the Landmark Trust website.

## HELEN SANDERS

### HERITAGE WATCH GROUP

**THE LANDMARK CALVERLEY OLD HALL BOOKLET HAS BEEN OF GREAT HELP IN WRITING THIS ARTICLE**



GUESTS CHAT IN THE KITCHEN AT CALVERLEY OLD HALL

# BLUE PLAQUES: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

'Blue plaques, their past, present, and future' was the topic discussed by a four-strong panel chaired by Lucy Moore after the 2025 AGM. The topic was chosen to celebrate the Trust achieving the milestone of 200 plaques unveiled and, in our 60th anniversary year, to look forward to the next 200.

Panel members were Dr Kevin Grady, former Trust Director, Susan Pitter, author of the 2020 review of the Trust's scheme, the Lord Mayor, Abigail Marshall-Katung, also co-chair of the David Oluwale Memorial Association, and Richard Butterfield, of Historic England.

Lucy first asked the panel about the past of the Blue Plaques scheme. Dr Grady said that when he started at the Trust he was told that there was a scheme in place, but no plaques, so he was involved from the very first one. The Trust's scheme was intended to link people, places and events with a building, to celebrate our architecture, and to foster pride in our city. Susan stressed the need to be honest with our plaques and wondered if they told the full story of the people in our city, people like her from the post-Windrush generation: there are many stories to be found about

people contributing to Leeds. The Lord Mayor praised the cooperation of the trust with the David Oluwale Memorial Association in helping bring his story to so many people, adding that she wouldn't forget the unveiling of his plaque and its subsequent theft so soon after. We still today face the challenges of racism, mental health, and homelessness. Richard talked about the national Blue Plaques scheme run by Historic England, which seeks to celebrate people who have inspired others, with the first plaque in Ilkley celebrating the first black NHS matron.

Lucy asked the panel where they saw the future for plaques in the next 30 or so years. Kevin said that the link between building and the person was still important but new people come into scope every year, and our perception of what is important changes all the time, so any scheme has to develop while maintaining its quality. Richard wanted to see more celebration from the grassroots, with more than just blue plaques. Susan spoke about the heritage brought by Caribbean communities and the need to celebrate that, for example remembering that Leeds was the birthplace of Europe's first authentic Caribbean Carnival. Abigail also wanted to see more plaques celebrating diversity and inclusion, remarking that she had been proud to unveil the 200th plaque for Nadine Senior, a white woman but with students of all backgrounds.

A few questions from the floor followed, and Lucy closed the session by asking each panel member what their favourite blue plaque was. Richard suggested not

a plaque but a project in Wakefield to get more women recognised in their Blue Plaques scheme. Kevin said that perhaps the most effective plaque was in Chapel Allerton for the ORT Technical Engineering School, celebrating Leeds giving a home to a school for refugee Jewish boys transported here from Nazi Berlin. Abigail's favourite was the one to David Oluwale, a painful history that can be told to today's people. Susan said that her favourite hadn't yet been erected, but was one which would celebrate the Caribbean contribution to Leeds, perhaps in time for the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the Caribbean Windrush passengers in 2028.

The hour-long discussion was warmly appreciated by the audience, left with some interesting and challenging thoughts.

## RODERIC PARKER

### EVENTS COMMITTEE MEMBER

#### BLUE PLAQUES FUND

Did you know it costs £950 for one blue plaque unveiling?

Our new Blue Plaques Fund will help us install new plaques and maintain our existing plaques, as well as create educational resources like blue plaque maps to keep our heritage alive.

You can give a one off donation or become a regular supporter.

[Read more and sign up on our website.](#)



PANEL MEMBERS



# FEBRUARY LECTURES

The 18th annual series of Leeds in Your Lunch Hour lectures was a roaring success. Crowds flocked to Leeds Minster to hear our former Director Dr Kevin Grady recount the fiery debate around 'The Leeds Look', the secrets of Godfrey Bingley's glass plate slides, the tale of the Headingley Bear Pit and the battle to save Mount Saint Mary's Church. We are grateful to Leeds Minster for being such wonderful hosts and to all the enthusiastic attendees.



AUDIENCE AT A LECTURE



DR KEVIN GRADY

# OUTLOOK CHANGES

We are introducing a 20 page bi-annual magazine that will be posted to our members. We are grateful for the magazine name suggestions given by AGM attendees.

This magazine will be visually and thematically rich and include content about development in Leeds in a broader and more holistic sense than what is currently offered in our Outlook newsletter.

Outlook will increase from being sent out 9 times a year, to once a month. Outlook will no longer be a 12 page PDF, but an e-newsletter

containing links to online articles. You will still receive your regular fix of planning, transport, heritage and culture news, just in a new format.

Members will continue to receive a copy of our Annual Report and Heritage Open Days booklet in the post. These improvements mean members benefit from gaining three more e-newsletters and the two new posted magazines at no further cost.

We can't wait to send you the first edition of our new magazine!



# NEW VISION

We are pleased to announce our new vision 2025- 2030.

Our trustees and staff have been meeting for several months to spell out our objectives for the next five years. The vision includes our values, ambitions and opportunities for change.

You can read our new vision in full [on our website](https://www.leedscivictrust.org.uk).



## THANK YOU JANE TAYLOR

This edition of Outlook is the last to be edited by Jane Taylor.

We are immensely grateful for all the work Jane has put in to Outlook over the years. We will miss her input enormously.

Jane served as Leeds Civic Trust Chair until 2024 and stepped down as a Trustee at our 2025 AGM. Jane continues to Chair our volunteer Events Committee.

# WHAT'S ON?

**PLEASE VISIT [WWW.LEEDSCIVICTRUST.ORG.UK](http://WWW.LEEDSCIVICTRUST.ORG.UK) TO BOOK. OR CALL THE TRUST (PLEASE HAVE YOUR BANK DETAILS TO HAND)**

**9/30  
MARCH**

**3PM**

## A LATE WINTER WARMER

Join us for two lectures on Chapel Allerton. One on the history and the other, the present and future development of this ever-evolving suburb, by Steve Burt and Rachael Unsworth on zoom. Free but donations towards forthcoming book are welcome. [Register on our website.](#)

**14  
MARCH**

**12:30**

## BLUE PLAQUE FOR PATRICK NUTTGENS

We are delighted to announce our first blue plaque unveiling of 2025 for Patrick Nuttgens. Tickets for this unveiling are free but limited and will be available on our website from Monday 10th March. [Read more about Professor Nuttgens on our website.](#)

**29  
MARCH**

**12:30**

## BEAR PIT GRAND OPENING

Join us for the official opening of the restored Bear Pit! After nearly 60 years, Leeds Civic Trust has successfully restored this historic structure and we'd love for you to celebrate with us. Join our guided tours, pre-event at Hyde Park Picture House and consultation at Left Bank. [Register on our website.](#)

**7 JUNE**

**10:30/**

**13:30**

## SAVE THE DATE! HERITAGE BUS TOUR

Join us for a special 60th birthday celebration with a heritage-guided bus tour led by historian Clifford Stead. Hop aboard a 1962 Leeds Daimler Double-Decker bus and take a journey through Leeds, exploring the city's developments over the past 60 years, complete with a nostalgic 1960s-style packed lunch!

## GUIDED WALKS

We've put on the biggest series of guided walks ever offered in a single season to celebrate our 60th anniversary. [Head to our website to peruse our walks and book your tickets.](#)

## OTHER INFO

### YHACS SPRING MEMBERS' MEETING

As a member of Leeds Civic Trust, you are invited to attend the Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies for their Spring Meeting. John Scotney, of Hull Civic Society, will give a talk on the historic buildings of Hull. Rob Hattersley, CEO of Civic Voice, will also be speaking.

#### OPTIONAL EXTRAS

1. Staying over? Join YHACS members for 7.30pm for a meal at The Minerva in Nelson Street at 7.30pm on Friday.
2. Saturday morning - guided walk around Hull's Old Town, starting at 10am and finishing in time for lunch.
3. Saturday lunch - a sandwich buffet kindly provided by Hull Civic Society at the Sailmakers Arms, High Street.

Direct all inquiries and confirm your attendance at the meeting and optional extra events by emailing [info@yhacs.org.uk](mailto:info@yhacs.org.uk).

**Meeting details: Wilberforce House Learning Centre, High St, Hull's Old Town from**

**1pm-4pm, Saturday 26 April**

**You can contact us at:**  
Leeds Civic Trust  
17-19 Wharf Street  
Leeds LS2 7EQ

**Telephone:**  
0113 243 9594

**Email:**  
[office@leedscivictrust.org.uk](mailto:office@leedscivictrust.org.uk)

**Newsletter Editor**  
Jane Taylor

**Find us online:**  
[www.leedscivictrust.org.uk](http://www.leedscivictrust.org.uk)  
[@LeedsCivicTrust](https://facebook.com/leedscivictrust)

**Disclaimer:**  
The views expressed in the articles of this Newsletter are the views of the authors of the articles and not necessarily the views of LCT

**Produced and distributed by:**  
**Leeds Civic Trust**  
Leeds Civic Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
**1014362**

This newsletter is intended for the members of Leeds Civic Trust. Membership begins at £30 for individuals and £40 for household and community groups.



**Find out more online:**  
[www.civicvoice.org.uk](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk)  
[www.yhacs.org.uk](http://www.yhacs.org.uk)