



The Walk through history

From the archives, a photo of Lower New Walk dating back to the Second World War. Although Leicester managed to escape heavy bombing during the War, there were areas that did experience damage, some of which can be seen above. After the War, New Walk became the first

of Leicester's Architectural Conservation Areas, as it had become rather run down due to bombings in the area. This helped to renovate and prevent the decline of New Walk.

Image from 'The History of New Walk, Leicester' by Helen E. Boynton.

The Writers' Block

The Friends are investigating a further Commemoration Project, following up The Clicker and The Clothier. The new project would be erecting on New Walk a commemoration of the various famous novelists, playwrights and poets who have been or are associated with Leicester and Leicestershire. A concept design is under discussion and talks have commenced with the Council on positioning, planning and size.

The Friends have drawn up a list of those writers who deserve a mention, which contains both historical and current authors, but if any reader has any ideas on who should be honoured, the Friends would be delighted to receive them. Please mention or send the ideas to any of the Friends.

On the Beat

The Friends would particularly like to thank the Police for attending our bi-monthly meetings and sharing their reports of crime and prevention measures within the New Walk area. Thankfully crimes are few and far between but have included burglary, mugging and prostitution. We can report that even though the Police are under-resourced the enthusiasm, effort and energy of the young team is managing to contain and improve results.



Friends of
New Walk

Friends of New Walk is a charitable trust registered at the Charity Commission under number 1077476

The current trustees of Friends of New Walk Charitable Trust are:

James Bowie
(Chairman of the Trustees & Resident)

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(Clerk to the Trustees & Trustee)

Wendy Allum
(Trustee & Resident)

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April 2012



Achievements and performance for 2011

The trustees, during the year, continued to receive regular reports in respect of planning matters from a representative of Leicester City Council and matters concerning crime and disorder from a representative of Leicestershire Constabulary at their meetings.

The trustees again supported the Leicester International Music Festival with a grant during the year and continued to involve themselves in erection of the public art

pieces on New Walk, namely the Clothier sculpture and the Concerto sculpture erected at De Montfort Hall.

They also made planning observations and objections, where deemed appropriate, for the protection and preservation of the character of New Walk. The trustees also prepared and circulated newsletters to interested persons on their activities and the area of New Walk and things related to New Walk generally.

Sixteen pay fines for cycling on New Walk

Recently the Police handed out £30 fines to 16 cyclists during a three hour operation on New Walk.

The Police have reacted to a lot of residents complaining about cyclists on New Walk and people have been bumped. There have been disagreements between cyclists and pedestrians.

The Police are trying to raise awareness that this is one part of the City that you can't cycle through.





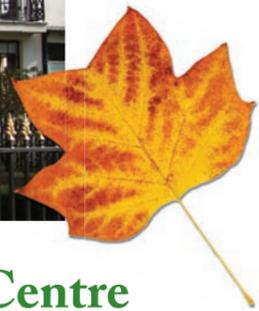
Trees Put to the Saw

One of the many beautiful aspects of New Walk is the kilometre of trees lining both sides of the pathway – some over a century old. So it is always with horror when we see an ‘execution notice’ pinned to a trunk, especially when it looks, to the naked eye, pretty healthy.

Recently the Friends have enquired into financing independent specialists for a second opinion but a presentation by the LCC Trees and Woodlands Officer has given us confidence that his department is committed to New Walk’s uniqueness and had spent over £40,000 in the last five years on maintenance and replanting.



Springtime in Museum Square



The future of the New Walk Centre

It seems that the two tall towers that house the Council Offices are in such a state of disrepair that they are destined to be demolished. We understand that it would be the Mayor’s preference for them to be demolished and for new Council Offices to be built on the same site. Other people believe that it would be better to demolish the existing towers and to redevelop the site with a new landmark

building financed privately. The Friends have an open mind on the redevelopment of that site but are excited at the possibility of seeing that site with a new landmark building erected on it and a plaza linking it to New Walk. We hope to discuss this with the Mayor and have invited him to a future meeting of the Trustees to discuss what options and alternatives there may be in this respect.



Dilapidated buildings on New Walk



Railing replacement for brick wall helps to prevent graffiti and posters.

Friendly Persuasion

Two developments have happened in recent months, which undoubtedly improve New Walk. Dilapidated numbers 62/64 are being developed privately for housing, and the Fenwicks Wall, which was a magnet for graffiti and ad hoc posters had been rebuilt with brick and railings, which are in keeping with the rest of the properties.

The Friends are extremely grateful to both parties for their investment and improvement, but make no apologies for persistent lobbying of authorities.

