

News in Brief

Preservation of New Walk as a Victorian Jewel

The trustees continue to meet six times a year and at their meetings receive reports from the Crime & Disorder Team of Leicestershire Constabulary in respect of matters affecting New Walk and the surrounding area. The trustees of Friends of New Walk Charitable Trust are delighted to have such a close relationship with the local Constabulary to try and ensure that New Walk remains a safe and pleasant environment for all.

Martin Peter Tahany

We are sad to announce a friend and resident of New Walk, Martin Peter Tahany, has died. He studied at Cambridge University and played 33 times for the Tigers between 1945 and '48, going on to become a referee. Peter founded Northbridge Engineering Limited, operating out of Wigston making aircraft and aerospace parts. Eventually he sold it to a quoted company and went on to become chairman of that company before retiring.

Planning issues

The trustees continue to consider and lobby on, where appropriate, planning issues affecting New Walk and the surrounding area via the Castle Ward councillors, and via the representative of Leicester City Council who attends the meetings of the trustees, and otherwise. The trustees are currently concerned about issues relating to the implementation of the Conservation Plan for New Walk and are liaising with Leicester City Council in respect of this.

New Walk Gallery Proposal

It is disappointing news to the Friends that due to the economic climate, funding for the proposed new city gallery has been shelved for the foreseeable future.

Leicester International Music Festival

The trustees were again pleased to support the Leicester International Music Festival as a corporate friend. The festival was held between 16th and 19th September 2010 at various venues in and around Leicester.

St Stephen's URC Church

The trustees have recently met with representatives from One Church: 100 Uses, a charity which is considering alternative uses of St Stephen's URC Church on New Walk. The trustees are being supportive, as far as they can, to the proposed project so as to ensure that the character of New Walk is maintained by any proposed change of use of the Church buildings.

New issues concerning New Walk

If any reader has any queries or concerns about any issues raised in this Newsletter or generally about New Walk and the surrounding area, please contact Mark Dunkley, the Clerk to the Trustees at 20 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TX, telephone number 0116 2545454, or via his e-mail address, mark.dunkley@harveyingram.com.

Friends of
New Walk

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

*James Bowie
(Chairman to the
Trustees & Resident)*

*Mark Dunkley
(Clerk to the Trustees
& Trustee)*

*Wendy Allum
(Trustee & Resident)*

*Norman Gill
(Trustee & Resident)*

*Colin Hargrave
(Trustee)*

*Bill Smedley
(Trustee)*

*David Sturgis
(Trustee)*

*Steven Swanton
(Trustee)*

*Elisabeth Townsend
(Trustee)*

*Adrian Weston
(Trustee)*

*Peter Wilkinson
(Trustee)*



Escaping the bulldozer

Our towns tend to grow slowly over the ages, but with rapid bursts of expansion from time to time. Leicester's expansion was very noticeable from the 1840's onwards, with large numbers of new streets being laid out, filled with parallel rows of terrace houses.

Much larger and more elegant villas flanked the more important suburban roads, those of Melbourne Road, in Highfields, being a good example.

The houses of the wealthy were strung out along the main radial roads. Mixed in with the houses, especially in the terrace row housing areas, were factories of various sizes, their coal-fired steam boilers and chimneys.

However, some parts were quiet and restful, and in the days before Leicester's parks were laid out as recreational space for public enjoyment, people used to visit the cemetery, for this was the only available open area. Leading up towards it from the city centre was New Walk, or as it was originally called, Queen's Walk.

The first buildings flanking it, at the city end, were constructed in 1817, and by 1832, it was distinctly residential, though properties only reached up to about De Montfort Street at that time.

By 1900, there had been enormous population growth in Leicester, and it was almost completely built up. By that time, there was evidence of a change in use, this starting at the city end, which had become commercial.

Changes since then have accelerated the commercial aspects, with original, elegant buildings being demolished and replaced with ugly concrete panelled office blocks, which do nothing to make the locality look beautiful. Others have been preserved and converted into commercial premises, so externally, they look the same as before, or very nearly so.

The drawing to the right is of one of its most notable domestic buildings, and is well worth a second, and a third, glance. It was originally two houses, Numbers 58 and 60, but is now a single dwelling and is situated a little down hill from the museum, on the opposite side of the road.



Let us hope that the ones on its uphill side receive some loving restoration care soon.

Article and drawing by *Olwen Hughes*
www.olwenhughes.com

Art commissioned by the *Friends*

The Clicker *commemorating the footwear industry*

Many people will be aware that the trustees of Friends of New Walk Charitable Trust raised money for the erection of the Clicker, a sculpture piece, to commemorate the footwear industry and its connections to the City and County of Leicester. The work was created by John Atkin, following a competition to design an appropriate sculpture. Since then John has received a number of large, prestigious commissions, culminating in him winning a worldwide competition to

create a sculpture to commemorate the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

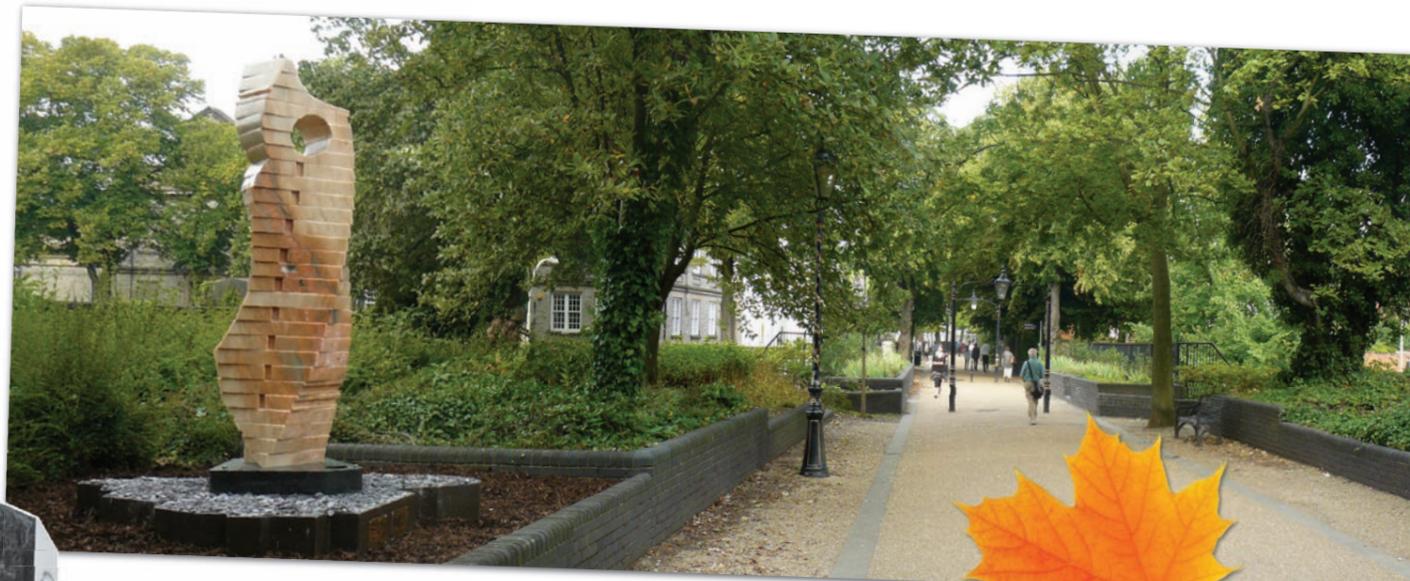
The Clicker was originally sited on the bridge on New Walk over Waterloo Way, but unfortunately it had to be moved after being vandalised. It was repaired and is now sited in the garden at the front of 20, 30 and 40 New Walk (Harvey Ingram LLP's offices).

The piece was entirely funded by public donations following an appeal made by the trustees of the Friends of New Walk Charitable Trust.

Concerto De Montfort Hall

Following on from the above piece, the trustees were delighted to receive a donation from John Birch in memory of his mother, the late Lois Birch. Mr Birch donated a sum of money to the trustees to commission a further sculpture piece, which was erected in the garden at De Montfort Hall on 23 June 2010.

The sculpture has been created by John Sydney Carter, a local sculptor, and represents musical instruments. The work looks very impressive in the flowerbed in front of De Montfort Hall and the trustees are delighted to have been involved in the commissioning and subsequent erection of this work.



The Clothier *clothing and textile industry sculpture*

Following on from the successful erection of the Clicker, the Trustees of Friends of New Walk Charitable Trust decided to launch an appeal for funds to pay for the cost and erection of a sculpture to commemorate the clothing industry and its connections to the City and County of Leicester.

This appeal for funds has been successful, and again following a competition, John Atkin was again commissioned to design the sculpture. Mr Atkin has designed the work in marble and it has been erected on the bridge on New Walk over Waterloo Way, where the Clicker piece originally stood, in Summer 2010. The trustees are delighted with the creation and hope that it will enhance the area for all users of New Walk.

The donors to the Clothier sculpture are:

- F. Carter
- Miss R. Loweth
- Miss K. Loweth
- M.G. & A.J. Hearth
- Mr J.C. Strange
- Mr G.B. Lodge
- Hill Osborne (Hugh Stevenson)
- ASDA Foundation
- Mr & Mrs D.A. Buswell
- Benson Box

- Pension Bank Ltd
- B.E. Towle
- Mr G.N. Corah
- Basil Pickford
- Kirby & West Local Charity Society
- Mr & Mrs B.A.F Smith
- H.C. & B.A. Stevenson
- K.B. Chell
- D.S. Kenyon
- Mr B.I. & Mrs G.C. Hailes
- Mr J.P. Polito
- Hickinbotham Charitable Trust
- Mrs G.J.W. Maltby
- C.G. & M.E. Parker
- The Baroness Byford D.B.E.
- Mr Barrie Byford C.B.E.
- Mr & Mrs D.S. Lovatt
- Leicester City Council
(Councillor Patrick Kitterick's Fund)
- Mr D.P.Hecks

The trustees of Friends of New Walk Charitable Trust would warmly like to thank them all for their most generous donations to the project. If anyone else wishes to donate to the project then please contact Mark Dunkley, the Clerk to the Trustees at 20 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TX. Alternatively call 0116 2545454 or email mark.dunkley@harveyingram.com.

