



The Walk through history

From the archives, a photo of New Walk dating from Edwardian times. Seen bisecting the Walk is Waterloo Street, which was later excavated in the early 1970s to become Waterloo Way, with the Walk passing across a bridge.

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

Friends of New Walk

NEWSLETTER



New Walk: The People's Pathway from an American perspective

1785. The then city fathers decided to build a "pedestrian walkway, (etc.)" to link the new racecourse on the south side of the city to the city centre. The racecourse has long since moved to Oadby and been replaced by Victoria Park, leaving the New Walk with the equally important function of providing a vehicle-free connection from the park to downtown Leicester.

Ten years ago, the New Walk was in a sad state of disrepair and rapidly on its way to becoming an eyesore instead of an amenity. Fortunately, an enlightened group of people decided they couldn't stand by and watch this treasure fall into ruin. As a result, the Friends of New Walk was formed. They assisted the city in its application for the grant which was awarded by the National Lottery, raised other funds and began to work with the local Council to repair fences, paving and plantings. In addition, they began to think about how they might enhance the old walkway in sensitive, but exciting ways.

You can see the results of their work today. The New Walk is used by people from all walks of life at nearly all hours of the day and well into the evening. At lunchtime in fine weather, the benches are full of office workers enjoying a sandwich in the pleasant outdoor surroundings. Families can be seen on their way to the New Walk Museum and couples, young and old, stroll hand in hand to and

What are the Friends doing for New Walk?

- Critical friend of Leicester City Council in respect of issues concerning New Walk and the surrounding area.
- Key player on the walls and railings English Heritage Lottery Funding project.
- Observer and contributor in respect of the tree policy and replacement of trees along New Walk.
- Catalyst to provide investment by local community in New Walk.
- Body to ensure ongoing and continued maintenance of New Walk as a pedestrian way and the maintenance of New Walk by Leicestershire City Council.
- Support of Leicester International Music Festival.
- Consultation body with Leicestershire Constabulary and support, e.g. provision of cycles.
- Establishment and development of website and newsletter.

- Supporter of more people coming back to live on New Walk and offering support for appropriate residential development and occupancy of New Walk.
- Liaison and observer in respect of planning issues and making representations, where necessary, in the interest of New Walk.
- Contributor to licensing and public order/control issues affecting New Walk and the surrounding area.
- Facilitation body for the erection of public art on New Walk – three statues erected to date and the next one under consideration – authors wall or similar.

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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)*

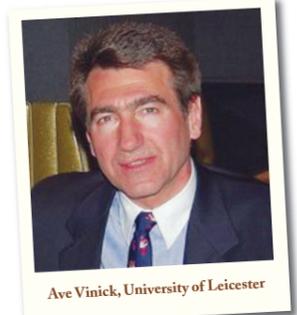
*Mike Taylor
(Trustee)*

*Elisabeth Townsend
(Trustee)*

*Adrian Weston
(Trustee)*

*Peter Wilkinson
(Trustee)*

October 2011



Ave Vinick, University of Leicester

I came to Leicester from America about eighteen months ago to pursue an excellent opportunity with the University of Leicester. I had never been to Leicester before and knew nothing about the city. As someone who has long been

interested in community development, I immediately set out to learn all I could about my new home. And what did I find to be Leicester's most distinctive asset?

Yes, it has two fine universities, a vibrant cultural life, a wonderfully diverse population and an interesting history. But, other cities in Britain can claim some or all of these features. There is only one New Walk. It is unique for historical, social and cultural reasons. And, for many of us – including this newcomer, Leicester would not be Leicester without it.

I was fascinated to learn that the New Walk has been a key feature of Leicester life since

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from downtown shops and restaurants. Many of those on the Walk will stop to enjoy the sculptures that have been commissioned by the Friends of New Walk.

I found the case for supporting the New Walk so compelling that I have joined the Friends of New Walk. Now, we are asking the rest of the community to join us in our quest to make sure the New Walk is not only preserved, but continues to thrive as critical part of Leicester's future. For not only is the New Walk an important historical legacy and an enjoyable open space in the heart of the city, but it will play a critical role in economic development. Green space is an ever more important commodity on this crowded island. As Leicester competes for the creative entrepreneurs who can help it thrive, it will rely more and more on special features like the New Walk that will enhance the lifestyles of those who can live and work virtually anywhere they choose.

Please consider making a generous gift to the New Walk Charitable Trust. Whether

you're interested in making sure this historic asset is well-cared for, want to see more done to enhance its attractiveness or just can't imagine Leicester without it, this is your opportunity to join other civic-minded people in a very worthwhile effort. We almost lost the New Walk once; it is up to those of us who care about our heritage and our future not to let that happen again.

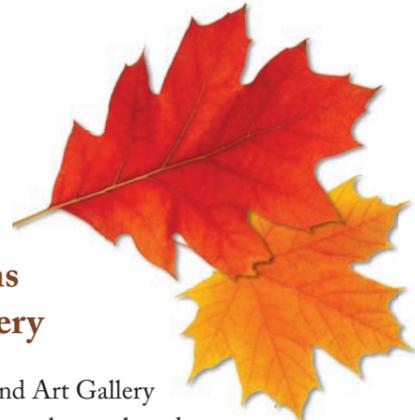


New Walk “One Big Pub”?



In a recent Leicester Mercury article entitled “Historic Street is now One Big Pub” it stated that residents are fed up with the noise that bars create, especially with outside seating. In a recent objection to licensing applications, residents commented that, “this is not Las Vegas Sunset Strip, this is New Walk which is part of the conservation area. It is a residential area not the centre of town. New Walk is something special we are trying to retain in the city”.

One resident who lives nearby wrote on the Council website, “It would seem the whole area at the city end of new Walk could well be one enormous alcoholic café”. Some landlords and owners said they wanted to keep the area around the area tidy and that they had an excellent relationship with everyone in the area. That might be, but how do they control the noise levels, which are sometimes unacceptable?



At the New Walk Museum

Picasso Ceramics on New Walk



This Summer saw the opening of the permanent gallery of Picasso Ceramics at the Museum on New Walk. Numbering around 150 pieces, the works have been donated by Lord and Lady Attenborough from their extensive collection.

Picasso created his ceramic works at The Madoura pottery in Vallauris, France. He also designed new forms which were a combination of painting and sculpture; Picasso insisted that the pottery was produced as inexpensive multiple works that were affordable to everyone. The Attenborough collection consists mainly of Editions and Original Impressions.

Sir David opens Dinosaur Gallery

New Walk Museum and Art Gallery welcomed Sir David Attenborough and mayor Sir Peter Soulsby to open their newly refurbished geology and palaeontology exhibition on 2nd September 2011. Three years in the making, The Dinosaur Gallery: Exploring Lost Worlds includes old favourites such as the Rutland Dinosaur, the Barrow Kipper and the Barwell Meteorite, plus new and never seen before specimens including the Blockley Plesiosaur. Sir David, who grew up in Leicester and visited the museum as a boy to look at the fossils, opened the exhibition, spent time talking with children and families at the private view, and got up close with Charnia, which featured with him in a recent TV programme. Over the opening weekend over 5000 people visited the museum. For more information about the gallery, its opening times and to see podcasts of some of the star objects go to www.leicester.gov.uk/museums

