

Old Grammar School

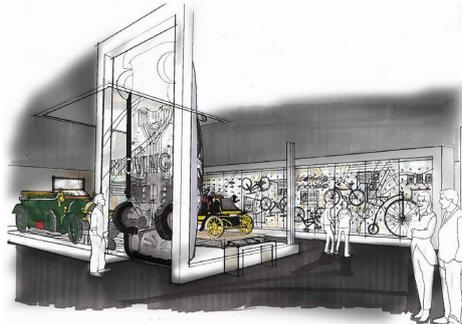
For years the Old Grammar School has been on the register of 'building at risk' but at last it's part of an £8.5m redevelopment secured by Coventry Transport Museum



Old chancel: some of the forty-nine 15th century carved oak stalls

with investment from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), a Biffa Award and the Garfield Weston Foundation. The developments will re-energise Coventry Transport Museum's galleries, creating a world class experience enhancing the opportunity for people to learn about, and get involved with Coventry's rich transport heritage and its manufacturing past and present.

In addition, the 12th century Old Grammar School will be sympathetically conserved, revitalised and brought back into public use as an exhibition, event and education space for the museum. After years of neglect it will secure the future of this Grade I listed building founded for the relief of infirm persons by the Prior of Coventry. After dissolution of the hospital the property was granted to John Hales who founded a free school in the building. New volunteering opportunities will give local people the chance to participate in the life of the museum and the Old Grammar School.



New gallery: an artist's impression of one of the new interpretative exhibitions



coventrysociety

April 2014

Subs

The Coventry Society financial year ends on January 31 and subscriptions become due on the first of February 2014. This year we have introduced joint membership for couples at £18 in addition to the normal cost of £12 per person which carries over from last year. Visitors are now charged £2 per meeting. You can pay by PayPal on the Coventry Society website, or by cheque to the Treasurer at 77 Craven Street, CV5 8DT. You can pay direct to the bank on 30-92-33 2693076. Please advise by emailing colin@collywobbles.f2s.com and use your surname as a reference. At April 1, 2014 we have 116 members and 69 have paid their subscriptions for 2014.

Down by the riverside



Many years ago Vice-Chairman Paul Maddocks produced artist's impressions of a feasible Hales Street cityscape with the river as the focal point (pictured left). Sadly the idea was never taken up by the Council. It's taken a long time, but at last the River Sherbourne is in the headlines after a report uncovered its hidden benefits. Called The Ripple Effect, it was commissioned by the UK Technology Strategy Board and Defra and carried out by international firm AECOM and Severn Trent Water in collaboration with the Council. While for most of the Sherbourne's course through the city centre the river flows under the main shopping area, the report suggests that opening up the river would make the centre more attractive and bring extra cash from tourism and shoppers. The Ripple Effect also estimates how the river would cool the city down in a heat wave, add biodiversity and reduce flood risks. All the groups involved in the report are now discussing the possibility of making the plan a reality.

What do we want from the next Government?

Since Civic Voice was formed 4 years ago it has become an influential organisation whose views are listened to by Government ministers and opposition leaders alike.

At this year's AGM we will discuss what should go in a Civic Manifesto, a document which will explain to all the political parties what we expect of the next Government after the general election in 2015.

Discussion will be lead by David Tittle, Trustee of Civic Voice and Chief Executive of MADE.

The AGM takes place on Monday, April 14 starting at 7.30pm
Shop Front Theatre, City Arcade
Light refreshments Visitors Welcome



Tick Tock

Where the children's Play Area is now in Stoke Green, there once stood the four metre high Joseph Levi Memorial Clock. It was bought as a tribute by the people of Coventry at a cost of £650 in 1934. It was constructed by the Lion foundry in Kirkintilloch, East Dunbartonshire, Scotland. The clock is the reason the play area is called "The Dr Dave Tick Tock Play Area". Dr Dave is in memory of Dr Dave Spencer, former Coventry City and West Midlands county councillor, who played a major role in getting the play area established. It was opened in February 2012 and sadly Dave passed away suddenly in April 2012.

The clock was a much loved feature in Stoke Green, but over the years it was neglected and fell into disrepair. When the Play Area was being built, the Clock had to be dismantled and put into storage as it was in danger of falling down. However, residents felt it was important that the Clock should not be forgotten. The Gosford Park Residents Association is working with the City Council to get the clock restored and put back up again. A specialist company in Leicester has taken x-rays of the fabric of the clock, and advised that it can be repaired and are preparing an estimate of the works involved. Council



Time: dismantling the clock for storage

officers will hold a meeting in April to discuss next steps. Joseph Levi was the founder in 1854 of the Coventry Philanthropic Institution, based at the White Lion Inn in Smithford Way. This later grew until there were eight Philanthropic Societies in Coventry with thousands of members. The work of these societies lasted for nearly 100 years – until the modern Welfare State was established in 1948. Before the Welfare State there were few state benefits if you became unemployed, sick or disabled. The members of the Coventry Philanthropic Societies were working people who donated and collected money and organised events to raise funds for fellow workers who had become unemployed or sick.

Protecting assets

"I want to thank Civic Voice and the Localism Alliance for coming together. You are making a difference" This was the positive and inspiring comment from the Minister for Communities, Stephen Williams MP while addressing a room of delegates at the network event in Bristol last weekend. The hot topic for the day was assets of community value - with delegates learning how communities can take up legal powers to help provide greater protection for assets of local importance and value. During a fact-filled and thought provoking day, alongside ministerial input from the heart of government, delegates had the opportunity to hear from Civic Voice President Griff Rhys Jones and the first elected Mayor of Bristol, George Ferguson. Talking about the whys and wherefores of registering buildings and sites as assets of community value, other input came from the Wokingham Society, from campaigners CAMRA, and from barristers with specialisms in planning related law who explained the legal backing that registering buildings as assets of community value can give you.

Betting Shops

The proliferation of betting shops on the high street has become something of a sore point in many towns and cities. Some members have just sent Eric Pickles MP an email to urge him to give local councils and the people greater powers in betting shop applications. The more of us that contact Eric Pickles, the more likely he is to accept the councils' proposals because he knows we are watching. Please let your friends and family know about the campaign so they can add their support. If you use Facebook and Twitter please also share using these links: Facebook: <https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/betting-shops-facebook> Twitter: <https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/betting-shops-twitter>

Farrell Review



After heading up a year-long national review of architecture and the built environment, Terry Farrell has set out his recommendations covering education, planning, heritage, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the Architects Registration Board (ARB).

The 60 recommendations in the report, which was commissioned last year by architecture minister Ed Vaizey, have been split into five main categories: education, outreach and skills; design quality; cultural heritage; economic benefits; and built environment policy. Civic Voice responded to the Farrell Review on the day of its release. Dr Freddie Gick, Chair of Civic Voice said "We are glad to see Sir Terry Farrell produce this report which shines a light on the importance of place making. A planning system that focuses on place-making and recognises distinctiveness through visionary local leadership will give certainty to both developers and communities.

Civic Voice will welcome hearing about recommendations we think should be included in the Civic Movement Manifesto (see AGM notice). The 60 recommendations in an easy to read form can be accessed at: http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/uploads/files/Farrell_Review.pdf

Sir Terry Farrell, is a British architect most widely known for the M16 building in London and the KK100 in Shenzhen, the highest building ever designed by a British architect.

Contacts

Postal address:
77 Craven Street, Coventry CV5 8DT
Chairman's tel: 024 7640 2030
Email: info@coventrysociety.org.uk
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We also have our own page on Facebook. You can also follow us there at <http://www.facebook.com/CoventrySociety>

More news and views on our website: www.coventrysociety.org.uk