

BRADFORD BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2006



BOOK LAUNCH

We hope that members were able to attend the book launch of Chris Hammond's book, 'The Good, The bad and The Ugly' at Waterstones on 17th June.

After the launch, more than 30 people accompanied Chris who retraced the book's journey through the historic centre of Bradford.

The book is on sale at Waterstones, The National Museum of Film, Photography and Television, tourist information offices and other outlets, as well as from the Trust's address, and costs £3.50. It is unique in that it paints a picture of Bradford City Centre on the cusp of radical change.



The restoration of Eastbrook Hall

Whilst the historic buildings discussed in the book will remain and many will undergo regeneration, most of the unsympathetic modern buildings constructed with such hope in the 1970's are already vanishing. What replaces them, including changes to the road systems, could make or break the city's future hopes of prosperity in the 21st century.

THE CEMETERY CHAPELS AT ILKLEY

Over the last five years, newsletters have detailed the costly restoration and conservation works on the North and South Cemetery Chapels in Ilkley.

The chapels now stand ready for lease in an approved use as small office spaces. This will ensure their future within Ilkley's important historic context by providing them with a viable future which will ensure regular maintenance and security of the buildings' fabric.

One of the reasons that the chapels have taken so long to reach completion is that measures had to be taken to protect the roosts of bats in the roof-spaces.

Structural decay was more advanced than was previously thought and further work was necessary to conserve and repair damaged stone work.

Unfortunately, throughout the entire restoration local vandals have systematically targeted the buildings, damaging the structure and new works and adding to the cost of repair.

If you are a resident of Ilkley you may have read in the local press about the protest by a small group of Ilkley residents against the restoration of the chapels and the matter of the buildings' change of use. The original function of the cemetery chapels had been redundant before the Trust took them over and obtained the necessary consents from Bradford MCD. However the group is now taking the matter to the Local Government Ombudsman, citing as their reason the processes employed by Bradford MDC.

This action will cause further delays to the eventual occupation of the buildings and in the meantime the vandals have continued with their destructive activities, which, unless the chapels are occupied will end in their loss to the community.

BBPT was established in February 1995, with the encouragement of Bradford MDC, to help restore and conserve local historic buildings that are caught up in a spiral of vandalism and decline.

The delays are preventing the Trust from carrying out its original remit and until the issues are resolved,

BBPT cannot generate funding to restore other buildings at risk.

FRIENDS OF ILKLEY CEMETERY

A steering group of 12 people will meet in October in the local scout hut near the Cemetery to plan a variety of projects to help protect, improve and interpret the Cemetery. The first meeting, on 19 July, was set up by Ilkley Civic Society and also attended by a representative of Bradford MDC. If you are interested in joining the Friends Group, further information can be obtained from the Ilkley Civic Society.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE IN SEPTEMBER

The work of Building Preservation Trusts helps to remove the onus of huge conservation costs from the public purse. Please remember to renew your subscription.

If you know someone else who believes in the future of Bradford District and would like to help to restore some of the historic buildings at risk please contact the Trust on 01274 667266

Membership is still only £15 for the year.



Bradford on the cusp of change, 2006

RESTORATION VILLAGE: BBC TWO. FRIDAYS, 9PM

The five programmes led by Gryff Reece-Jones have concentrated this time on buildings within smaller communities who were desperate to restore locally loved architectural treasures to their former glory.

The programmes were accompanied by road-shows around the country and viewers were once more encouraged to vote for their favourite building to restore.

The Restoration Village winner will be awarded £1.9 million pounds from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards their restoration objective.

'HISTORY MATTERS - PASS IT ON'

This national campaign, launched in June by leading heritage groups in England and Wales draws attention to the contribution of history to our lives and encourages more people to get involved. You are asked to name your favourite place and text it with your postcode to 07771 797777, or arrange a History Matters event.

You can also contribute to an on-line gallery of pictures. The website for the initiative is:

www.historymatters.org.uk.

However if the whole idea of websites and computers is a total anathema to you, you can, of course, visit local museums and historic houses to pick up more information, a badge and a form.

NEW FORMAT NEWSLETTER

We hope that the new format newsletter has been easier to read.

TRUST WEBSITE

This newsletter and previous ones can be downloaded from the Trust's website:

www.bbpt.org.uk

Membership Subscription Form

TITLE (s)..... NAME (s).....

ADDRESS.....

..... POST CODE

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER.....

Would like to become/pay my subscription as - a member of Bradford Building Preservation Trust. I enclose a cheque for £..... (£15 per member or £150 for life membership)

I am a tax payer and would like my subscription to be used to claim tax relief.

SIGNED

(Your details will be kept in confidence and will not be passed to any other organisation)

Chairman: Derek O'Hearne
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