RIPON CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2020

The previous edition was full of Planning topics. They're still around but we may enjoy a brief respite this time. Just to let you know, a comprehensive representation was made to the outline planning application for the redevelopment of the Ripon barracks at Clotherholme. Might we expect some news on this and the Cathedral's *Ripon Renewed* project in time for the next edition?
We also submitted comments on the Government's Planning White Paper.

This time our topics are more like local news. There's the renovation of the former NatWest Bank building. We take a look at the Ure Bank regeneration area. Showing that we can't keep Clotherholme off these pages for long, we look at what happened to the Ripon Camp after WW1.

Members have received notice of the 2020 AGM. This will be on 3rd December and as is now normal will be online. David Winpenny is preparing a quiz for us and that will be another online first. Recently we've published our first two recorded meetings on video.

Thank you for your support as we learn new tricks. Hopefully 2021 will let us meet in person once again.

Christopher Hughes

What do you think?

Last year saw the fiftieth anniversary of designation of the Ripon Conservation Area. We reported on the circumstances that led to this and the threats and changes to the area over those fifty years. You can read about this on our website.

One of the original motivations was the loss of the former Claro Bank on Market Place South and the construction of what until recently was the NatWest Bank building.

The new owner has been well aware of public dissatisfaction with the existing building and received planning permission to make changes to the elevations. The ground floor is planned to be used as a restaurant with the upper floors used for housing.

This is a significant investment for the city centre.

These images show the site in its various forms.









Ure Bank - a Ripon Regeneration Area

The previous edition reflected on the regeneration areas proposed in the Ripon Neighbourhood Plan and focussed on recent changes at Bondgate Green. This time it's the turn of Ure Bank.

Ure Bank is a part of Ripon with its own distinctive character. Located close by the North Bridge entrance to the city it enjoys the riparian natural environment of the river Ure. It traces its development to the location of the former Ripon railway station and goods yard. Today it is a mixed area with original terraced housing, modern housing, heavy industry and business units. This is an area both stable and in change. The large historic maltings building, derelict land, utilitarian industrial buildings and structures, uncared for land stand attract heavy and commercial vehicle traffic. Yet within a stone's throw is conventional modern estate housing and prominent Victorian terrace.

The Plan made strategic points about development opportunities at Ure Bank. Noting the presence of two heavy industrial sites and their traffic it was suggested that should they become vacant then it would be appropriate to consider redevelopment for housing. This was not to detract from Ure Bank as a location for business premises. Indeed it was suggested as well that local convenience shopping might be appropriate.

Perhaps less has happened than might have been expected but Ure Bank has not been without change. The heavy activities of Ebor Concrete have reduced in scale and impact whilst there has been investment in the renovation of some smaller business premises. The large derelict site on the former railway goods yard has received planning permission for housing but there is no current indication of progress. One significant investment is in the listed maltings building which has been re-roofed. It is understood that beneficial use is being made of the building.









South of the river the notable change is the development of the former Ripon auction mart for park homes. This alongside the recent renovation of the former Station Hotel for housing is addressing the poor state of this important entrance to the city. It's unfortunate that the project was unable to include building to fill the gap on the street frontage.

Environmental improvement takes different forms. Neighbours have taken on enhancement of the back entrance to Ure Bank Terrace. Public art appeared in the floodplain with the Armistice remembrance in 2018. Otters have been sighted on the riverside.

Perhaps more might have been expected. It will be interesting to come back in a couple of years or so and see what has happened.

Along with the regeneration areas, especially the redevelopment proposals for of Ripon barracks, the Plan identifies areas in the city centre where comprehensive change should be encouraged. These will be reviewed in future editions.



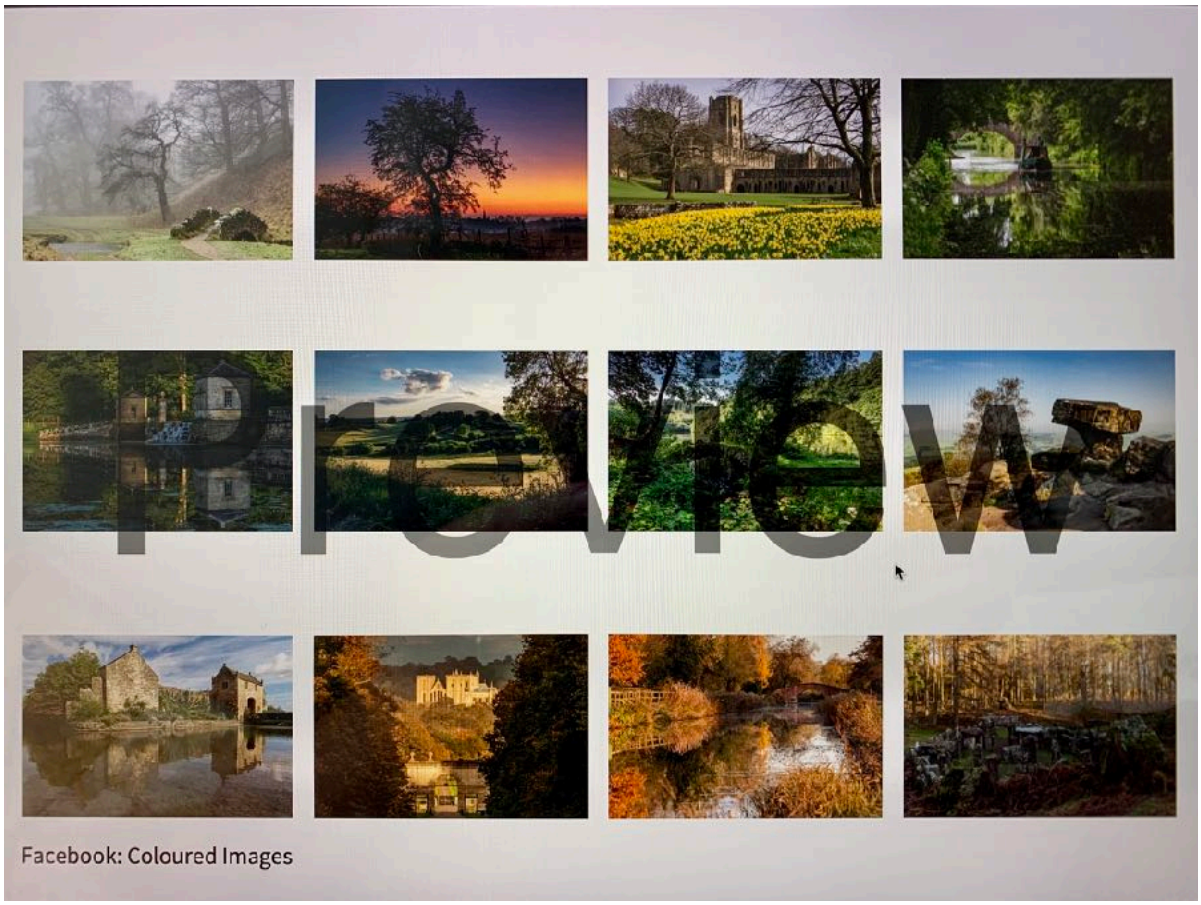


Ripon 2021 Calendar

This year has seen the refresh of our website much enhanced by the new photographs from Michael Smith. We are pleased to draw your attention to his 2021 calendar.

This is A4 in size but A3 when hanging with plenty of space for notes and features 13 of his images from Ripon and the surrounding area, They are £9 each with £1 of that going back to Ripon Community Fund. There is no charge for local delivery.

A link to Mike's website is on the Home page of our website, but for the record his website address is
https://www.colouredimages.com/
and his Facebook page address is
https://www.facebook.com/Colouredimages/



Clotherholme - another perspective

Previous newsletters have carried items about the redevelopment of Ripon barracks.
This time you might be interested in reports from the aftermath of WW1 and what happened to the extensive camp and infrastructure. So little of the original military presence is now visible, other than the extent of the present day barracks (then known as North Camp), that it can be hard to imagine how our predecessors saw the opportunity to use the land.
This is what was going on in 1920 according to the *Ripon Record*.

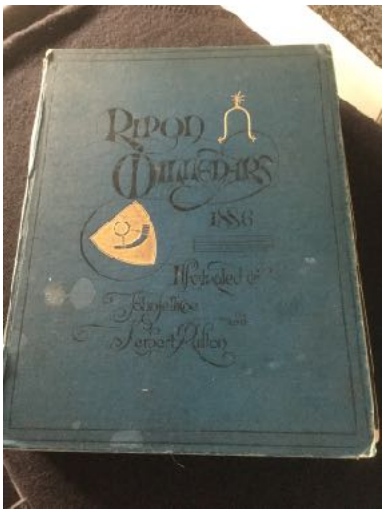
A Labour Battalion of 1,000 men arrived in Ripon to carry out the demolition of South Camp, but the work had to be delayed until the outcome was known of an interview that a deputation from the City Council had had with the Prime Minister and later with the Deputy Minister of Munitions, asking for an estimate of cost of returning the land to its original condition. Some of the huts on North Camp were converted into dwelling houses and the Housing, Sanitary and Industrial Committees jointly inspected these and later the empty huts on South Camp. Sixty huts on land belonging to Lord Ripon in Whitcliffe Lane were deemed suitable for temporary dwellings, as were a number on land belonging to the trustees of St John's Hospital. The Housing Commissioners gave permission for the use of wooden huts as temporary accommodation, with the provision that there should be no stoppage of the building of permanent houses at Aismunderby. Most of the other huts were sold at about £80 each at three-day sales held monthly throughout the year; the horses and mules are also sold at special sales. Several of the huts were used on poultry farms. A Government decision was made at the end of February not to develop the South Camp area for industrial purposes and to encourage companies to build factories on Tyneside instead. At the same time the Ministry of Health approved the alternative housing scheme for the site. In September The Unknown Players Film Company bought the North Camp Garrison Theatre for £1,110 at auction.
The future of North Camp was debated throughout the year. In September, a public meeting was held to discuss its possible take-over by a shipping company as a transit camp for emigrants. There would be about 2,500 people in the camp at any one time with individuals staying a few days or a week at the most. Opinion was divided, shopkeepers being in favour as they thought the emigrants might spend money in the town before their journey, whereas speakers at speech days at the Grammar School and the Girls' High School denounced the scheme on health grounds. In the meantime negotiations continued with the Government and later the mayor announced that the Corporation has been successful in persuading the War Office to retain the North Camp and that part of it would be converted into married quarriers to house 300 families expected to arrive in Ripon from March 1921.

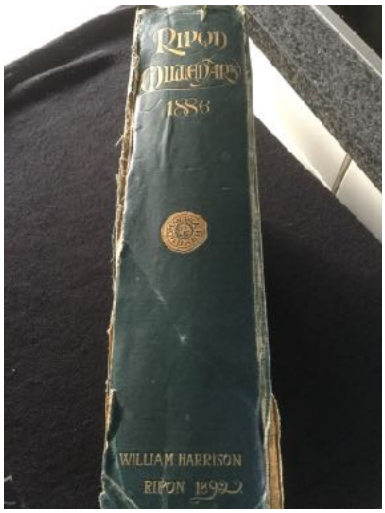
Ripon Millenary

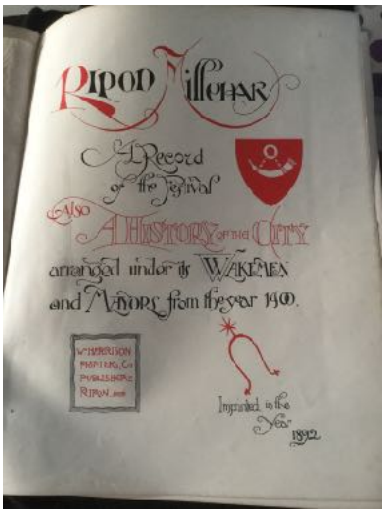
The Society has received a copy of the Ripon Millenary Record kindly donated by Madeleine Carter. For those of you unfamiliar with the document it records events in the life of the city over the thousand years since its purported founding in 886.

Mrs Carter tells us that her great, great Grandfather was Robert Collinson, Mayor of Ripon from 1876-80 and owner of the Unicorn Hotel. Her great, great, great Grandfather was Thomas Binns and there is a tablet in Ripon Cathedral erected in his memory. It is always interesting to learn of Ripon's previous residents.

We shall keep the record at our office in the Workhouse Museum.







Autumn Colour

The American oak tree planted to mark our 45th anniversary is now growing well and its red leaves are a prominent feature at this time of the year in the Marshall Way area. It's good to see it thriving despite being now partly masked by the electric charge points installed in the car park near Booths. Do have a look for it next time you are in the area.

