BLACKPOOL CIVIC TRUST

“Promoting Excellence”

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2010

Registered Charity Number 504075 R
The National Civic Trust going into administration last April caused a variety of problems with Civic Trusts and Societies all over the country. In our case we held, one Saturday morning in June, the first of the countrywide meetings that were held by the Civic Society Initiative – a group of people who had stepped in to try to salvage as much as they could from the movement - to gather in members’ ideas and desires for a new umbrella group. It also meant that the (by now partly organised) Conference that the Civic Trust were due to hold here in October suddenly became a Convention for the Civic Society Initiative. We had trips to Preston to talk with others at the North West Association of Trusts and Societies as well as joining in on numerous ‘on line’ discussions and Forums. All this of course took time and effort and culminated in an Extra Ordinary meeting on the 1st March where it was decided - by you, the members - to go ahead and join this new Civic Voice which is the new name of the umbrella group which will be launched on April 17th 2010.

With all this happening it is amazing that we have managed to attend the usual Committee and Board meetings as well as having an extremely successful Annual Dinner and an equally successful Awards Evening. The latter, in its new format, was made possible by three of our corporate members F Parkinson Builders Ltd, Eclipse Building Contractors and Number One Hotels and the help of Andy Mitchell, Head of News at Radio Wave.

This year we have had 35 new members and a number of them have shown interest in our movements so in this report I have tried to show our involvement with others. Because Blackpool Civic Trust is so high profile we are invited to numerous events and meetings. On attending the first meeting the decision is then taken as to if it is in our remit or is of interest to our members for us to attend further ones. Some are, some aren’t but until we attend we can’t decide!

Our relationship with the council through Carl Carrington, Built Environment Officer, and Jan Cresswell, the Assistant Conservation Officer, is the envy of all our neighbouring Civic Societies. We try to be to be a ‘friendly adversary’ of the council and in return receive their help and assistance and free use of the Town hall for all our meetings. We also support as many civic events as possible like Mayoral Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, all Armed Forces week celebrations, etc. This year we were asked to invigilated at the Olympia for Showzam Central – and it was a job enjoyed by all! Our Heritage Open Day programme which is run in partnership with the council through Heather Morrow, the council’s Heritage Officer, was larger than ever this year and was held as an example of good practice by English Heritage. They chose us to launch Heritage Open Days in the North West here at Blackpool. This we successfully did with the kind assistance of Geoff Sage at Blackpool Tower.

Once again this year we have successfully received funding for a number of projects as well as adding three new plaques to our Blue Plaque Trail.

To give our members a better understanding of the town we have had visits to a variety of places here not normally open to the public as well as trips to visit with other societies at Skipton, Burnley, Lancaster and Morecambe. We hosted successful
visits from two different Yorkshire societies and were proud to show off the magic that is Blackpool.

In other words, although the National Civic Trust went into administration, it has been business as usual here at Blackpool Civic Trust.

*Elaine Smith*

### 3. PLANNING OFFICER’S REPORT

The economic uncertainty of the past year has clearly taken its toll, with very few planning applications from the conservation areas or the listed buildings of the town. We have dealt with 21 applications this past 12 months, and have objected to only 3.

We were very unfortunate in losing to fires two of our iconic buildings, Yates Wine Lodge in Talbot Square and the Grand Hotel in south shore.

We have also lost quite a few shops in the town including national chain shops such as Woolworth’s again down to the financial situation of the country.

But in the midst of all this gloom and doom Blackpool has had, with the help of various grants, a number of large and prestigious projects started and completed such as: - Brilliance on Birley Street, St. Johns Church and it’s magnificent Square, Cedar Square with it’s shops, the special lighting in the streets of the town centre, St. Johns square in Church Street, the Health Centre on Whitegate Drive, Sixth Form Collage off Palatine Road Just to name a few.

Although not yet finished the Promenade Headlands are well past the half way mark together with the new tram tracks.

So as you can see Blackpool is continuing to live up to it’s motto, “Progress”.

*Robert E. Taziker*

### 4. MEMBERSHIP AT 15th MARCH 2009

The membership for 2009-2010 reached 208 so for the first time since 2002 we have over 200 members. Our thanks to everyone who helped boost this membership.

Members please note that Membership Cards will not be ready until late April as they cannot be printed until after the Annual General Meeting.

We had 35 new members in the course of 2009-2010

*Jean Mildren*

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<tr>
<th><strong>Corporate Members</strong></th>
<th><strong>Honorary Corporate Members</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Blackpool Model Village</td>
<td>Eclipse Building Contractor</td>
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<td>Blackpool Pleasure Beach</td>
<td>F Parkinson Builders Ltd</td>
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<td>Blackpool Sixth Form College</td>
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<td>Corrine Calvert Hair Design</td>
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5. IMPORTANT BLACKPOOL CIVIC TRUST EVENTS

Organisers of  
The Blackpool Civic Trust Awards Ceremony  
The Civic Society Convention 2009  
The Civic Society Initiative Forum  
The Two Heritage Coach Tours around Blackpool

Co-Organisers of  
Heritage Open Days  
Blackpool in Bloom and North West in Bloom

6. BOARD MEMBERS

The Townscape Heritage Initiative  
The Local Strategic Partnership (Environment Div.)  
The Blackpool Environmental Action Team  
The Blackpool Heritage Forum  
The Third Sector Strategic Partnership

7. STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stanley Park Volunteer Centre  
The Blackpool Transport 125th Anniversary  
Totally Transport  
The TSSP Leadership Workgroup  
The Race Equality Forum  
The Blackpool Heritage Champions  
The Western Train Tram

8. OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED WITH OR ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS

Greening your Victorian Home (Lytham Hall)  
Cultural Olympiad & Discovering Places (Manchester)  
Centre for Tourism & Cultural Change (Baronial Hall)  
Conservation Conference (Warrington)  
Launch of Heritage Open Days in the NW (Tower)  
Launch of the Winter Gardens Book (Winter Gardens)  
Launch of Blackpool photograph book (Town Hall)  
Launch of Bloomfield Talks (St Peter’s Church Hall)  
Launch of the Western Train Tram (Solaris)  
Launch of the Cyril Critchlow Collection (Library)  
Launch of Learning Blackpool (Solaris)  
Opening of the Chinese Community Centre (Cookson St)  
Highfield School Educational Employers (St John’s)
Shoreline Management Plan (Solaris)
Coastal Change Workshop (Solaris)
Celebrating Difference Day (Zoo)
Demonstration of Traditional Building Skills (Lytham Hall)
Older Person’s Conference (Blackpool Hilton)
Wakefield Civic Society AGM (Wakefield)
Talbot Gateway Consultation (St John’s)
Muslim Festival (Central Library)
Reception with Ben Bradshaw (South Beach)
Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport

9. EXHIBITIONS

Great Days Out (Revoe School)
Totally Transport (Solaris)
Launch of the Race Equality Forum (Arnold School)
TSSP Trade Fair (Football Ground)
Forever Young (Winter Gardens)
Adult & Community Learning (Solaris)

10. BLUE PLAQUES 2009

Harold Larwood, Cricket Club
The Pillbox, Salisbury Woodland
The Cottage Fish & Chip shop, Newhouse Rd.
Renewal of the plaque at St John’s School

11. VISITS

Pleasure Beach
Donna’s Dream House
Street Scene, Layton
Blackpool Reform Jewish Congregation
Masonic Hall
St John’s C of E Primary School
Brooks Collectables

12. TRIPS

Skipton
Towneley Hall, Burnley for the Lancashire Federation AGM
Lancaster and Morecambe for the North West Ass. of Civic Trusts and
Societies’ Autumn Gathering

13. HOSTED VISITS

The Forest of Galtres Civic Society (June 3rd)
The Ossett Civic Trust (November 1st)
14. EVENTS ATTENDED

Invigilating for Showzam (Olympia)
Totally Transport Day (Solaris)
Tram Sunday (Fleetwood)
Opening of Arboretum (Moor Park Ave, Bispham)
Mayoral Sunday (Town Hall)
Remembrance Sunday (Cenotaph)
Veterans Day (Cenotaph & Arboretum)

15. PROJECTS

1. Descriptive boards inside the top of the Cocker Memorial Clock Tower pointing out points of interest. Also a banner at the bottom giving its history.
2. Funding to remake the Stanley Park Floral Clock
3. Funding to digitalise the Blue Plaque Town Trail

16. SPEAKERS 2010 – 2011

2010

April 19\textsuperscript{th} BLESMA Jackie Longden
May 17\textsuperscript{th} Variety in Life Duggie Chapman MBE
June 21\textsuperscript{st} Art in Blackpool Carolyn Primmett
July 19\textsuperscript{th} 100 Years of Guiding Elaine Robinson
August 16\textsuperscript{th} Local History Scene in Blackpool Tony Sharkey
September 20\textsuperscript{th} Holiday In India Carl Carrington
October 13\textsuperscript{th} T.B.A.
November 15\textsuperscript{th} Robert Evans Mills Lecture Prof. Vanessa Toulmin
December 13\textsuperscript{th} Christmas Festivities

2011

January 17\textsuperscript{th} The Golden Age of Comedy (Part 3) Brian Halliwell
February 21\textsuperscript{st} T.B.A. March 21\textsuperscript{st} T.B.A.