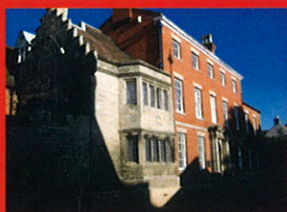
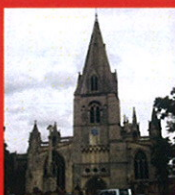


Sleaford Town Historic Buildings



Introduction to Builders Kirk & Parry

In producing this booklet, the *Sleaford & District Civic Trust* (*Registered Charity Number 502291*) hope to provide readers with a background to some of the well established buildings in and around the centre of our market town. During the 19th century the Sleaford based builders and architects, Kirk & Parry, were associated with many of the properties featured in this pamphlet. Charles Kirk (1791-1847) originated from Leicester arrived in Sleaford to stay in 1829 where he dismantled the existing Sessions house and rebuilt it. He had previously been involved with work at Folkingham House of Correction (1824-26). Thomas Parry (1818-1879) was born in Lincoln and married Kirk's daughter, Henerietta. One of the earlier Kirk family homes in Sleaford was in a terrace home at 40-44 Boston Road, opposite the White Horse public house, where they have become self contained flats.

Charles Kirk and his family then moved into the newly built home, what is now called the Mansion House and located next to Nags Head Passage, in the early 1840's. By 1846 Thomas Parry had purchased land to build "Westholme", part of which is a strange mixture of French chateau and English medieval manor house style and was in residence by 1851. The latter being located within the grounds of St Georges Technical College. Their business was run from a yard and offices in Jermyn Street. In 1871, Charles Kirk's son, also called Charles, built his drawing office opposite the depot and on his own



house site. A wyvern can be seen on the office roof (Pictured).

Kirk & Parry was probably founded in 1846, after Parry's marriage to Henerietta, and continued uninterrupted until 1908. Due to the high volume of tools and equipment the auction took four days to complete. In the 1860's Kirk & Parry were the fifth largest building company in London. They built many churches, tunnels, railway lines and several railway stations including Leeds Central and Liverpool Central (1870-74). Other major builds included Lincoln Prison (1869-72), Whitehaven Docks (1875) and Scarborough Aquarium (1878), which is now a car park.



Adjoining the Sessions House and located in Northgate was the house built for William Alvey, founder of the Eastgate school named after him. The Talbot Inn was demolished to allow for the building around 1700. Above what was the front door and now a window are the initials of his wife “E A” or “W A”. William Alvey died in 1729 and successive occupants included



Alvey Darwin, probably William Alvey’s nephew followed by a surgeon. In 1802 Peacock & Handley Bank moved in from a building in the Market Place where they were first established on 2nd April 1792 to assist with the financing of the Sleaford Navigation Company. Their manager was Henry Ingoldby whose youngest daughter married Charles Kirk II’s son, Herbert. The building is now part of Lloyds Banking Group.



On the left in Northgate is what was the Lion, also known as the Lion Hotel. In 1857 the Lion helped organise the dinner, which was held in the goods shed at the station, to celebrate the arrival of steam trains to Sleaford. The hotel remained empty for several years before being acquired by the national public house chain J D Wetherspoon. They extensively and sympathetically revamped the building and reverted to its original name of the Packhorse Inn, which opened in April 2004. Many local people will remember the rather unique vehicle turntable at the top of the court yard. Within the Inn there are several posters and pictures about well known local personalities and historic buildings including those built by Kirk & Parry.



A short distance along Northgate and on the same side as the Packhorse Inn, one comes across the Manor House, built in the 16th century. It is possible that stone from Sleaford Castle was used in its construction. The archway and two lion masks are medieval. Rhodes House, a three storey building attached and integrated to the Manor House,



was built in the mid 18th century with further extensions during the mid 19th century. It became the home of Colonel Rhodes, brother of Cecil. Colonel Rhodes had married into the Peacock family who resided at the Manor House. During the 20th century Rhodes House was used as a commercial building by accountants Cole, Dicken & Hill. Latterly it has been converted into apartments.

On the opposite side of the road three public houses - namely the Boars Head, Beehive and Green Dragon were demolished in 1857 to allow Kirk & Parry to build the Almshouses and the Old Savings bank. The Bank started life in 1818 when it was located in the Market Place. Whilst the Alms-



houses were an extension of accommodation for Carres Hospital in Eastgate.

Next door is Carres Grammar School, which was founded by Robert Carre in 1604. It was then called the Free Grammar School of Sleaford. It moved to its present site in 1834/5. Further extensions were added up until 1906. The original aim of the school was to better the education of children who were living in the parishes of Sleaford, Aswarby, Holdingham, Quarrington, North & South Rauceby, Anwick, Kirkby-La-Thorpe and Evedon. Today the school has students from as far a field as Newark in Nottinghamshire.

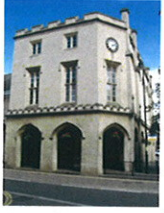


St Denys' (*pronounced Denis*) parish church dates back to the 12th century and was originally called St Dionysius, who became the favourite saint of Bishop Alexander who built Sleaford Castle. The Carres family home was located opposite the church on land what is now Eastgate Almshouses. In 1884 lightning struck the church and the tower collapsed. Local contractors W H Maxey rebuilt the west facing



front. One noticeable omission was the tower window, which can now be seen standing in the garden at the rear of the church. It has been suggested that the stone window was not strong enough to withstand the Tower's weight.

The vicarage is perhaps the oldest standing building in Sleaford. Existing parts date back to the 15th century with the red brick extension being carried out by Kirk & Parry in 1861.



Located in the southwest corner of the Market Place is the Sessions House. In 1829 Lord Bristol agreed to sell the dilapidated building, which dated back to 1755, to the magistrates as he was not prepared to undertake any renovations. Charles Kirk was invited to dismantle and rebuild the Sessions House based on a Tudor style design by London based architect H Edward Kendall. The overall cost was £7,000. Alas in 2008 it was decided to close the court and Grantham Magistrates Court took over responsibility for processing local offenders. The Sessions House was sold privately for £400,000 and is expected to be converted into a restaurant and offices.



On the southern side was the majestic Bristol Arms. Originally called the Angel Inn it was renamed in 1826 on the occasion of Lord Bristol becoming a Marquis. The public house closed in 1958. An archway existed, known as the Bristol Arcade, which takes pedestrians from the Market Place into Southgate. The

building has been converted into flats. Next door to the Library is a home built in 1853 by Kirk & Parry for Doctor Bissell, who lived and carried out his practice until the 1890's. During the 21st century the building was used commercially until 2008 when it reverted to a private dwelling.



Opposite St Denys' parish church are the Almshouse and chapel. They were built on the original site of the Carres family home, which from the 17th century was also used as a hospital. The eastern range of homes built in 1790's

were refronted by H Edward Kendall in 1830's. The south range was designed and built by Charles Kirk in 1844, following Kendall's example. The homes were for the deserving poor of Sleaford and surrounding villages.

Continuing along Eastgate one comes across The Old House with its 17th century origins. In 1707 it was acquired by Austen Cawdron, a relative of the Carre family. During the 18th century it changed hands several times before being purchased by Henry Snow's grandfather, and it remained in his family for some 200 years. Now known as Oakdene, it is currently used as a nursing home.



By 1851, local builders Kirk & Parry had commenced work on Lafford Terrace and ten years later they had completed three homes, probably numbers 5, 6 and 7. They were of Palladian in style, which could be associated with properties in Cheltenham and Bath. The dwellings were for the middle class and today they are used as offices of the headquarters of North Kesteven District Council.



Across the road is Kingston Terrace displaying wonderful chimneys. Marmaduke Bennison began building them in 1857. Mr Bennison went on to build homes in Duke Street.

Just past Kingston Terrace one comes to the entrance of the cemetery with its delightful Lodge built by Thomas Parry in 1856. A couple of doors further on and we have the William Alvey junior school. This school was built in 1851 by Kirk & Parry. The original



school was built in 1729 at a different location. Crossing the road and entering Lollycocks Field and by following the easterly footpath one will arrive at Cogglesford Mill. It was originally called Sheriff's Mill and a Charter exists that shows the Mill was in existence in 1216 and underwent a name change in the 16th century. The adjacent Mill Cottages date back to the 17th century and today they are used as a restaurant.



Continuing along East Road the beautiful façade is what remains of the gas works, which ceased production in 1953. Built in 1839 by Charles Kirk and designed by H Edward Kendall. The offices and managers home being located within the entrance.

Returning to the centre of Sleaford and heading south down Carre Street one will find Navigation House, which was recently renovated by local builders Arthur Hatcher & Sons. Originally built in 1838 in a Tudor style they were the offices of the Sleaford Navigation Company. When the railway arrived in 1857 the competition eventually proved too strong for water transport and

by the 1870's the company closed its office. The building was taken over by local waggon builder and farrier, Thomas Mettam. Today Navigation House is open to the public where one can see and learn more about Sleaford's history.

The navigation opened for traffic in 1794. Access was originally through Cross Keys Inn yard and later, in the 1820's via Carre Street where an elaborate stone portal is located. The date of 1792 was the year when the Act was introduced.



Across the road is 25 Carre Street. Built around the mid 19th century. It has been suggested that the frontage, in ashlar style, was by Marmaduke Bennison. An Antique & Emporium show room currently occupy the building and is well worth a visit.



What we now call Money's Mill started life as a Tower Mill built by Henry Sutton in 1796 to replace a post mill erected some seven years earlier. Mr Sutton ran a successful bakery in Southgate where his back yard ran down to the Navigation. The present mill is 70 feet high and during its working period had the capability of using three sets of millstones. In 1986 the mill was restored by the Sleaford and District Civic Trust.



At the bottom of Carre Street and opposite the White Horse public house is a terrace, 40-44 Boston Road, built by Charles Kirk 1840/41. One of the homes was occupied by Kirk and his family and where Thomas Parry lodged. The property has since been converted into self contained apartments.



Books about Sleaford and surrounding villages

The Sleaford & District Civic Trust (S&DCT) hope that readers will have enjoyed the contents of this booklet and may decide to know more about the town of Sleaford. Below are listed several publications that are highly recommended and are sure to quench one's appetite.

"Sleaford and the Wapentakes of Flaxwell and Aswardhurn in the County of Lincoln" was written by the Venerable Edward Trollope. He was a highly educated Victorian churchman who found that his work in his parishes of Rauceby and Leasingham left him time to develop his interest in architecture and antiquities. The book can be purchased from the S&DCT.

The following publications should be available at Sleaford library:

"The Book of Sleaford" is written by local historian Dr Simon Pawley. The book was published in 1996 and it is the first attempt for over 120 years to write a full history of Sleaford. Six years earlier Simon published *"Sleaford and the Sleas"*.

"The River Sleas" by the late Les Gostick.

Jeanne M Furnival has produced "*Jeanne's volumes*" and include a booklet about the *Writings of David Smith* who was the son of Thomas Smith the Miller. David Smith was born in Sleaford in 1858 and lived at Hemp Mill.

The National Lottery

through their Awards for All, has provided financial support

In conjunction with this booklet's publication, ArtsNK have arranged for an Festival of Light Evening, where buildings around the Town will be illuminated. ArtsNK are part of Leisure in the Community Ltd and Leisure Connection Ltd that deliver high quality leisure services in North Kesteven District and operate from the third floor of the Hub, a National Craft & Design Centre off Carre Street in Sleaford. A new bridge over the River Sleas, linking Carre Street to the Hub, was opened on 27th May 2001. Financial support for this booklet and the Lighting Festival has been provided by the National Lottery through their Awards for All Fund, for which ArtsNK and the Sleaford & District Civic Trust are extremely grateful.



The National Craft & Design Centre, known as the Hub, is located adjacent to Eastgate car park and was opened in 2002. Part of the building was Hubbard and Phillips Wharfside seed warehouse built in 1939, which had stood unused and derelict for several years. However, it is believed that Hubbard and Phillips occupied the site since the 1880's.



A metal sculpture, called *The Sampler*, can be found at the entrance to the Hub. The design is based on a concept by Catherine Bohme and Andreas Lang and was manufactured by Harvey Fabrications of Bassingham.

This William Pye water feature can be found outside Cogglesford Mill. Built of stainless steel, previous Pye sculptures have used an independent water source, however, in this case its supply came directly from the River Slea. As a consequence algae built up and caused a malfunction. ArtsNK are hoping that during 2009 it will again become operable.



The narrow foot bridge, which connected New Street to Eastgate car park, was removed in the Autumn of 2008. The



photograph, right, shows the absence of a bridge. By early 2009 a new manually operated counter balance lifting bridge had been installed at a cost of £160,000.



Built by Britton Fabrication of Hucknall. When fully operational it will allow boats to move between the Hub and Cogglesford Mill. In 1977 volunteers established *Sleaford Navigation Society*. In addition to carrying out



restoration around Haverholme, they are also planning to construct a slipway adjacent to the Hub.

More Sleaford Historic Buildings

At the turn of the 20th century employment in the Sleaford area was in decline as agriculture underwent a revolution with the arrival of steam driven machinery taking the place of many farm workers. By 1905 Bass, Ratcliff and Gretton had completed the Bass Maltings. Although it has been suggested that this represented just half the original size planned. It contained eight bays each six storey's high and being 1,000 feet wide covered an area the size of three football pitches. At the centre of the complex was an artesian well some 170 feet deep. The Maltings ceased operation in 1960. A major fire in 1976 confirmed the strength of its construction with just the roofs of the fourth, fifth and sixth bays being destroyed as the picture shows. A dark cloud over its future still remains to this day albeit the Prince's Trust have indicated that it would like to convert the Maltings into offices, residential accommodation and retail usage.



Sleaford railway station was built of stone by Kirk & Parry to herald the arrival of the Boston, Sleaford and Midland Counties Railway in 1857. A railway siding was created to take rail traffic to Jermyn Street where Kirk & Parry had constructed a large steam powered flour mill with some 15 pairs of stones. Having the capability of working around the clock it proved stiff competition to the other town water and wind mills.



Along Grantham Road one can witness the sad demise of St Botolph's primary school. Built by Kirk & Parry in 1867 the school closed in 2006. A new housing development is currently underway in the old school yard.

The Playhouse, erected by James Smedley of Market Rasen, is located mid-way along Westgate, on its northern side, one of the last active Georgian theatres in the country. It opened its doors on 27th March 1826. Some thirty years later the building was converted into a school by Kirk & Parry. In the mid to late 20th century it was used as a Department of Social Services benefits office. In 1994 it was purchased by Sleaford Little Theatre and after undergoing major refurbishment re-opened as a theatre in 2000.



Sleaford & District Civic Trust (S&DCT)

The William Lasdun sculpture of a *Sail* was a means of celebrating the Millennium. It was commissioned in 1999, jointly by the Sleaford & District Civic Trust and North Kesteven District Council, and installed in 2004. Located in East Banks and adjacent to the "Cut", which belongs to the S&DCT, it allows the viewer to witness the Sail's reflection in the River Sle.



Membership Application Form to Sleaford & District Civic Trust

Title: _____ Forename: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Signature: _____

*I/We *am/are UK taxpayers and would like Sleaford & District Civic Trust to treat all subscriptions I have made as Gift Aid Donations. *I/We understand that the tax reclaimed on these donations must not exceed the total amount of Income or Capital gains Tax, which I/we pay in any tax year.

** Delete as appropriate*

Signature: _____

Annual Membership Fees

Individual £10; Joint £15; Under 18's £3

Half rates for pensioners

Cheques made payable to "*Sleaford & District Civic Trust*"

Honorary Treasurer: John Jackson

21 The Paddock, Westgate Park, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7WB

In addition to producing a quarterly newsletter, in colour, thanks to the efforts of our versatile and thought provoking editor, Brynley Heaven, we also now have our own Website

<http://community.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

[SleafordandDistrictCivicTrust/](http://community.lincolnshire.gov.uk/SleafordandDistrictCivicTrust/)

Sleaford Homes and Monuments



In 1846 Thomas Parry purchased land to build his home in what can be called a strange mix of French chateau and English medieval manor home, which he had occupied by 1851.

Today the building has been incorporated into St George's Technical College.

Charles Kirk acquired the land to build what we now call the "***Mansion House***" in 1840 and was living there by the time of his death in 1847. The building is now part of Kesteven and Sleaford Girls High School.



Designed by William Boyle of Birmingham, the 70 foot high ***Handley Monument*** was built in 1851. It was erected in memory of Henry Handley, the Town's MP from 1832-1841. He was the son of Benjamin Handley.

Charles Kirk II had a small input when he arranged for water to be piped from his well at the back of the "***Mansion House***", this would allow for the installation of a ***Handley Monument Fountain***, which took place at Christmas 1863.

The Bristol Memorial Fountain can be found in the Market Place and was erected in 1874, some ten years after the death of the 2nd Marquis of Bristol, with some of the cost being borne by Bristol Estates tenants. Around the top of the fountain is engraved its history.



Westgate House was built around 1800 and was further extended during the 19th century by W H Knight, a partner in Kirk & Parry. Today the house is used by an Information Technology company.