

**FOURTEENTH CENTURY TREE
TRANSGRESSIONS**

Transcribed, translated and edited by Phyllis Hill, Jack Heery and other members of the Ranulf Higden Society, under the direction of P.H.W. Booth and J.H. Harrop (University of Liverpool)

“ It is also found that Henry de Hoton on Wednesday before the feast of All Saints in the 22nd year of the reign of the present lord king (29th October 1349) took a green oak in Hooton wood; and that Henry on Wednesday before the feast of All Saints in the 27th year (30 th October 1353) took a green oak in Hooton wood; and that Henry on Wednesday [of the week] after the feast of All Saints in the 29th year (4th November 1355) took a green oak in Hooton wood;

and that Ranulf de Bruyn on Monday after the feast of St Andrew in the 28th year of the reign of the present lord king (1st December 1354) took a green oak in Lower Bebington wood;

and that Robert de Pulle on Wednesday before the feast of St Mark, evangelist, in the 29th year (22nd April 1355) took three oaks in Netherpool wood;

and that John le Whyte on Tuesday after the feast of St Martin in the 29th year (17th November 1355) took one green oak in Little Neston wood;

and that Stephen de Merton on Friday after the feast of St Andrew, apostle, in the 29th year (2nd December 1356) took one green oak in Gayton wood; and that on Tuesday after the feast of St Gregory in the 22nd year (18th March 1348) he took one green oak in Gayton wood; “

TWO KEITH DAVIDSON AWARDS



Awards were made to

The Friends of Storeton Woods and Susan Nicholson (Bromborough Society)

The Wirral Society Civic Design Award went to St.Thomas' Church, Parkgate

Former Ellerman's Line Sports field, Hoylake:

An Inspector has upheld a Wirral Council decision to refuse planning permission for a residential development on this land. The Inspector said that the proposed development by Kirby Park Limited of 62 affordable homes, represented inappropriate development in the Green Belt under the newly-introduced National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The inspector concluded that, although the council was unable to demonstrate a five-year housing supply and had a shortage of affordable housing in the local area, the contribution the proposed development would make towards meeting those housing needs did not outweigh the Green Belt harm involved. Good to see the Green Belt is held in such regard - let us hope this is a good sign for the future!

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send your name and address and tel.number to Avril with a cheque for £7 (£10 for a society) for one year's membership (Jan to Dec)

Newsletter printed by D.B. Print, Hoylake.

1500 copies go to members, libraries, community centres and all Wirral Peninsula councillors and MPs
 All images by Judith Railton except if otherwise named.

EMAIL ADDRESSES WANTED – to use Wirral Society funds more effectively

Send a message, including your name, to Wirral Society - we can send you information on forthcoming events quickly - as well as reducing postage, printing costs etc. and saving the rain forests! wrlsoc@yahoo.co.uk
 We assure Members that personal information will not be passed to anyone else .If you can't use the internet all information will continue to be sent by post

SPRING 2013

Chairman's Comment

'Wirral Waters'


The Chairman was recently interviewed for Granada Reports, on the occasion of the formal commencement of the major tree planting scheme around the docks; interestingly funded not by Peel Holdings, but by public money via the Mersey Forest organisation.

Whilst the interview lasted about 3-4 minutes, only some 20 seconds was broadcast! This brief extract just included his reference to it being nearly 5 years since Peel received permission to restore & convert the Pumhouse to an hotel and nothing had happened. This seemed to fit in with the other interviews, which centred upon the fact that the Company had so far been unable to raise the necessary capital to enable other works in the East Float area to start.

In the unbroadcast part of the interview, the Chairman commended the tree planting works, the start of construction of the International Trade Centre and the principle of the docks being re-used. He also re-iterated the Society's view that the development currently planned was an over-ambitious scheme, totally out- of-scale with its surroundings and questioned for example, whether Wirral really needed 13,500 flats in high-rise blocks, given that similar buildings elsewhere in the Borough were currently being demolished. The scheme had been subject to minimal consultation and the Wirral community had little prospect of being able to influence the proposals. The Council had been unwilling to refuse the scheme or make any major changes to it, given there was no prospect of anything else on offer and it was desperate for economic activity.

Editor's note – be aware of media reports – in the broadcast interview it appeared that The Wirral Society were hoping Peel would hurry up with Wirral Waters development, when in fact the Chairman was talking about them not getting on with renovating the Pumhouse.

WIRRAL MATTERS



NEWS and VIEWS from THE WIRRAL SOCIETY - FOUNDED 1928
THE WIRRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE)
President: Professor John Tarn OBE DL FRIBA FRSA FRHistS FSA



The former Hydraulic Tower at Tower Road. Listed Building Consent was granted on 18th June 2009. Peel has 7 years to run before the permission lapses

THE WIRRAL SOCIETY WEBSITE overhauled by its creator, Nick Lauro, is now interactive.
www.wirralsociety.net

Green Belt Matters from Neil Parry

The “big event” in recent weeks has been the very close refusal of outline planning for a student village on Green Belt land to the North West of Chester.

At a packed Strategic Planning meeting, Cheshire West and Chester (CW&C) narrowly voted to reject the application. Given the importance of the open aspect at this site, the lack of support from the University and the strong objection by the local (Blacon) Councillors it was very “disquieting” that the vote was so close. We expect that it may be resubmitted!

CW&C are now reviewing the Green Belt around Chester as part of their Local Plan, rather than as a separate prior investigation. This has the danger of Green Belt changes being “formalised” in the Plan without prior debate. Chester residents are encouraged to check what their Council is planning for their fields, and speak to their Councillors!

Wirral Council have produced their latest draft of the Core Strategy, we are most encouraged that the Green Belt has been promoted to one of the top Core Strategies. We must hope that this helps the Councillors decide correctly on applications in the Green Belt!

Any further information on the Green Belt in the Wirral please email:- neil101parry@gmail.com

W. Victor Smith lecture

Bromborough Pool Village.

The Wirral Society has a long history of fighting to save individual buildings and urging local authorities to create and then protect Conservation Areas. Understandably new developments are often seen as eroding the character of a Conservation Areas and the developer cast in the role of the enemy. With these thoughts in mind and anticipating a robust and brisk discussion, the architects, Ainsley Gommon, were invited to speak at the Society’s Victor Smith lecture in January on the subject of their masterplan for Bromborough Pool.

The ‘model village’ of Bromborough Pool was begun in 1854, to provide accommodation for workers in the adjacent Prices Patent Candle Works. Over the years a range of facilities including a village hall, church and school were built to serve the community. Today it is one of Wirral’s 25 conservation areas, with 42 Grade II Listed Buildings. The original office block on the now derelict factory site is also Grade II listed.

The challenge for any developer is to come up with a viable plan which provides a balance between residential and employment uses. No proposal will please everybody and our speakers faced some sharp questioning over their designs for the new housing. However we were reassured to hear that they were placing great emphasis on landscaping and that the scheme would include open space, a ‘pocket park’, a riverside walk and the reinstatement of the river bank wetland, partly as a buffer against flooding. It has yet to be seen if the Bromborough Pool

Bromborough Pool Village the old, left and the new, right



masterplan will fall a victim to the recession but the scheme, as presented to the Society, seemed to offer a way forward for both the derelict factory site and for one of Wirral’s most significant settlements.

Elizabeth Davey

LITTER CONTINUES TO ADVERTISE THE PRODUCT

.....Thanks to a video installation, where the artist painted litter white, in last year’s Liverpool Art Biennial, I realized that manufacturers don’t care about litter



Some Current Society Casework

Wirral Borough

Loss of Trees - Pipistrelle Rise, Noctorum Ridge, Birkenhead: We have established that the Council are still making every effort to prosecute the perpetrator. Photos of the trees before felled commenced have been sent to the Council.

Former Champion Factory site at Upton: We are still keen to see the removal of unauthorised advertising and an improvement in the visual quality of this corner site.

The Council advise us that pressure from the Planning Enforcement Team has resulted in the recent removal of some of the signs, but there were still more to be removed. The Council was waiting for an application for Advertisement Consent for signs on the building to be submitted.

Proposed Hoylake Golf Resort: We remain concerned at the Council’s recent renewed commitment to this proposal, even though it is the Green Belt and the area subject to flooding.

Cheshire West & Chester Borough:

Proposed Student Village, Blacon: The work we have undertaken with Chester District CPRE to oppose this major Outline Application by Chester University to erect a student village on Green Belt agricultural land, has been successful. Planning Permission has been refused, albeit by a small majority. We remain concerned at the future of other areas of green belt around Chester.

W. Victor Smith Lecture Della Robbia Pottery

Colin Simpson, Principal Museums Officer spoke about the large collection of Della Robbia pottery at the Williamson Art Gallery. The pottery was founded in 1894 by Harold Rathbone who was very much influenced both by Italian art and the William Morris Arts and Crafts Movement. He was joined by Colin Dressler and trained local young people to work in the pottery.

At first they produced large wall plaques in bright colours of the sort found in sunny Italy, but they were not a great success under our cloudy skies. Later, they made vases and large set pieces decorated with fruit and flowers, which were often used for presentations and are very collectable today. Examples can be found in Birkenhead Town Hall and the Central Library, and in churches in Wallasey,

Oxton and St. Peter’s, Lower Heswall. Later, Colin Dressler left to found his own pottery and Carlo Manzoni was brought in to help. Tiles, bowls and plates etc were also made, but sadly the pottery was never really a commercial success and it closed in 1906.

Audrey Platt



Della Robbia plaque detail, Birkenhead Central Library

Poets’ Corner, a copse of trees in Birkenhead Park

Oak saplings were ceremonially planted by the four section winners of the Park’s annual poetry competition. Ashar, Robert Batty Yvette Beddows and Judith Railton.



Ashar and his father plant an oak sapling, with Roger Cliffe Thompson, competition advisor, standing

SUMMER MEETING. Gather at Burton Manor Visitors Centre at 2.30 Saturday July 13th