CELEBRATING



FIFTY

ANTHONY BRAND & SIMON PAWLEY



Celebrating Fifty

This publication is produced in conjunction with celebrating the anniversary of the establishing of Sleaford Town Council in 1974.



Celebr	ating Fifty	

Anthony Brand and Simon Pawley

2024

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Contents

	Page No.
Introduction	4
Sleaford and District Civic Trust	5
The Sleaford Museum Trust	5
Council Buildings Past and Present	6
A Walk Around the Market Place	14
A Stroll into Jermyn Street	23
Travelling from South to North	26
Inns and Public Houses	35
Along and Down Westgate	42
Public Spaces, Buildings and Places	48

Introduction

The Local Government Act 1972 established new Counties, District, Town and Parish Councils in England and Wales. The earlier Act of 1894 which created the Sleaford Urban District Council was dissolved in 1974 and replaced by Sleaford Town Council and North Kesteven District Council. This means that in 2024 Sleaford Town Council is fifty years old. This publication commemorates the anniversary.

As Simon and I walked south to north and east to west across Sleaford to make our selection we speculated whether we could find and select fifty building and places to include here. We succeeded, depending upon how you do the counting, with fifty plus. The final selection is personal and while including buildings of historic and architectural merit the pictures and text represents Sleaford in a broader context.

Swiftly it became very apparent that we were also engaging with a commentary on the social history of Sleaford. Evidence of significant evolution and change was to be seen across the town. Former public houses which are now solicitors' offices or various forms of accommodation show one aspect of change. Now empty large former bank premises await finding a new life.

The section on *Council Buildings Past and Present* demonstrates how the buildings were reused with new ones being purposed for the current councils. Similarly when *Travelling from South to North* further examples of change are to be found. The section on *Public Spaces, Buildings and Places* demonstrates many significant changes and developments which have occurred over the last decades.

A publication such as this could not be achieved without Simon's extensive knowledge about Sleaford. It has been a great pleasure working with him in the production of this work.

We hope that you enjoy reading this work and gaining deeper insights about Sleaford today and how it has evolved. We are grateful for the support of the Sleaford and District Civic Trust and the Sleaford Museum Trust for providing financial support for the printing of this publication. You can learn more about their works across our community overpage.

Anthony Brand
Chair and Mayor of Sleaford Town Council

The Sleaford and District Civic Trust

The Sleaford Civic Trust, a registered charity, founded in 1973, is a group dedicated to preserving a good quality of life and environment in the town of Sleaford.

The Trust supports local enterprises in the preservation of existing older buildings and guides on the newer developments.

We fund new projects such as the Bristol Water Fountain, the Gostic Mosaic and the Gregson Bench. We support the town Historical trails and specific publications. Our current project is to have historical Blue Plaques on notable buildings in the town. The Trust was the instigator of the Sleaford Castle Heritage Group which has recently made significant finds.

Back in 2009 the Sleaford Civic Trust published a booklet 'Sleaford Town Historic Buildings' that showed those older buildings in the town with an abridged note for each. (See website.)

The Trust is delighted that Tony Brand and Simon Pawley have now independently produced a new a publication showing the town as it is today. Indeed it is remarkable how the older buildings still contribute to the present town. This also will be on the Trust website – http://www.sleafordcivictrust.co.uk/

The Sleaford Museum Trust

The Sleaford Museum is delighted to be associated with this new publication describing the important and significant buildings of Sleaford. Each and every one has stories to tell of the part that these buildings played (and many continue to play) in the life of the town, and the people who lived and worked in them. In the Illustrated London News, dated 13 June 1857, an article appeared to mark the opening the Boston, Sleaford and Midland Counties Railway and the town was described thus:

"There is not a better regulated, a cleaner or a more rapidly-improving town in the county of Lincoln than Sleaford."

Indeed, another contemporary commentator described Sleaford as "The Flower of Lincolnshire". And no wonder – 1857 saw the completion of a number of important civic and public buildings which grace our streets to this day and you will read about them in this book. This year, 2024, Sleaford Museum will mount a major exhibition on the life and achievements of Charles Kirk and you will also find his name writ large in these pages. We hope this book will encourage you to walk around the town and see many of the buildings in a new light. The mission statement of the Sleaford Museum is 'Sharing Our Stories' and this timely publication goes a long way to supporting that.

Council Buildings Past and Present

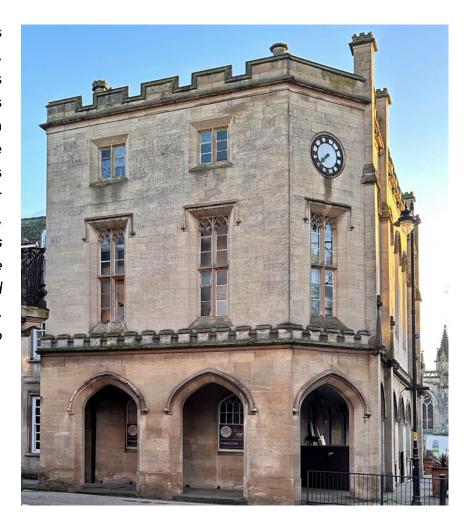
Kesteven County Council

When Kesteven County Council was set up in 1889 there was a long debate about whether it should be based in Grantham or Sleaford. In the end, they settled for a system in which full council meetings alternated between Grantham and Sleaford, an arrangement that remained in place for the rest of KCC's history.

The Sleaford venue was the court room in the Sessions House, which was extensively refitted to turn it into a suitable council chamber while allowing it to remain a court venue. It should be noted that the term "Town Hall" was unconnected to this development: the Sessions House was frequently referred to as the "Town Hall" even before the present building was constructed in 1830 and the term continued to be used throughout the nineteenth century.

As they grew and evolved, KCC's administrative offices were scattered between Grantham and Sleaford. The Education Office and County Surveyor's Office were established in Grantham. The Weights and Measures Office (now a hairdressers) was built in Handley Street as part of the planning permission for the building of the street in 1907.

Until he died in 1902, KCC's first clerk was Joseph Phillips, a Stamford solicitor. As was common for councils in this period, his work address in Stamford also served as the County Clerk's office. His solicitor replacement was Thomas Holditch of Sleaford, who "entered upon his duties on 16th October with the stipulation that he should have an office at Sleaford. But at that time there was no office at Sleaford to go to".





As a result, Holditch started renting Charles Kirk's former drawing office in Jermyn Street (now Sleaford High School gatehouse) and laid out a considerable sum on refurbishing it. This left KCC with little choice but to agree to buy it for £400 as their permanent clerk's office, although it was far from ideal. It was later described as "in a sequestered spot behind the main street of Sleaford. The access to it is through a very narrow lane of mean buildings and it must be no easy task for strangers having business to transact with the county officials to find their way to the office." It was also small, with only three rooms. A lot of the KCC deeds and records had to be stored in a room at the top of the Sessions House.

In 1915, the council decided (against some resistance from Grantham members) that all their offices should be moved to Sleaford, preferably in one location. The First World War delayed this plan but in 1925 the leases for all but one of the houses in Lafford Terrace expired and KCC purchased them, converting the premises into the Eastgate County Offices. The last house (No. 7 at the southern end of the terrace) remained in the occupation of Mr Arthur Drury Piper, the KCC clerk and the council did not acquire it until it was vacated by his widow just before the Second World War.

By 1955 they needed to expand the office space again and reached an agreement with Lady Bristol that she would sell them Lollycocks Field when they asked for it. This expansion took place in 1960 with the building of the "Hallam" prefabricated offices in the car park and Lollycocks Field area to the east of the existing buildings. These included a new Council Chamber, where KCC's Sleaford meetings were afterwards held.

Sleaford Urban District Council and Sleaford Town Council

Sleaford UDC, created in 1895, was effectively a revamped version of the Sleaford Local Board of Health. This had run the town's sewage, water supplies, street paving and cleaning, leisure facilities and burial arrangements since 1857. Urban District Councils took on some additional responsibilities for local roads and planning matters. In the first Sleaford UDC election in December 1894, nine of the twelve members had previously been members of the Board of Health.





Like the Board of Health, the UDC originally met in the Sessions House. In 1900 they financed and built the new fire station in Watergate and took the opportunity to construct a council chamber in the upper room there, where they met between 1901 and 1955. Until 1914 their clerk was solicitor Edmund Clements, who for an extended period served as clerk to the Workhouse Guardians, Superintendent Registrar, clerk to the Board of Health and then clerk to both the UDC and the RDC, operating out of his office at Monument House (74 Southgate). This address served as the UDC's clerk's office until Clements retired aged 92 in 1914. In the usual pattern, the office then moved to 27 Carre Street, which was the attorney's office of the new clerk, John W.Bell.



In 1927 Sleaford UDC established its permanent office at 19 Jermyn Street (the Sleaford High School gatehouse) after KCC vacated it, close to where their depot, yard and stables had been located since 1919. In 1955, they bought Westgate House for £493 and converted it into their new offices and council chamber, where they met for the rest of their history.

After local government reorganisation, the new Town Council continued to meet at Westgate House and had a small office space there, while the old UDC council chamber was used as the wedding venue for Sleaford Register Office. Other parts of the building were used by the magistrates as a court room and by the Lincolnshire Community Council before it was sold to Anglian Water in 1985.

The Town Council quickly began to lobby for the creation of a Community Centre, which had originally been envisaged as being built in the gardens of Westgate House. The new proposals – also never realised – suggested such a centre (which would have included a new Town Council office and council venue) could be built on Riverside Green. Instead, in 1981 the Town Council entered into a "Chance to Share" arrangement with St George's School as part of the expansion of their Westholme premises and moved from Westgate House to a new Civic Centre there, which included offices and a meeting room for the council.



In 2002 they moved the office to 3 Mill House in Carre Street, while still retaining the council chamber at the Civic Centre for meetings until the school offered them a settlement to move out completely in 2006. Between then and 2009 council meetings were held at Carre's Grammar School.

After 2010 some meetings transferred to The Source in Southgate and in 2011 all meetings were held there, with this arrangement remaining in place until 2015, although sometimes when The Source was unavailable the council had to meet in the Mill Court offices instead.

In 2015 the Town Council moved both its office and its meeting venue to new premises in the former Navigation Warehouse, now called Quayside House, in Navigation Yard. This was initially leased but in 2016 the Town Council bought it outright.

Rural District Council

Rural sanitary authorities were set up with limited powers under the Public Health Act of 1872. They consisted of the Poor Law Guardians for the rural parishes involved and Sleaford Rural Sanitary Authority usually met in the Union Workhouse board room in Eastgate. Under the 1894 Local Government Act, they then became Sleaford Rural District Council, again using the Sleaford Poor Law Union as its administrative area: 55 local parishes covering about 200 square miles, divided by 1891 into three districts (Billinghay, Sleaford and Leadenham).

Like the Rural Sanitary Authority, Sleaford RDC met in the Sleaford Union Workhouse board room and its meetings always followed directly after the meetings of the Guardians, the two bodies being substantially composed of the same individuals. They were still meeting at the Workhouse in March 1907 but in April 1907 (for reasons that are not clear) they moved their meeting venue to the office of Edmund Clements, their clerk, in Southgate. This address also served as the RDC office until his retirement. In 1915 they then moved to new premises in Northgate (now Duncan and Toplis), which included a new council chamber.

In 1930 all of the county's rural districts were re-arranged. Part of Sleaford Rural District passed to the newly created North Kesteven Rural District and the rest, along with Ruskington UDC, was merged to form East Kesteven Rural District Council. Its offices and meeting place remained in the Northgate premises.



By 1960 the RDC had acquired the Hoplands site in Boston Road for housing development and also began to draw up plans for a new council building there. In 1962 they considered whether to take on the former Eastgate Workhouse ("Slea View") as their new site after it closed as a care home, but in the end decided to go ahead with the Hoplands scheme. The new premises were described as "lavish" and "palatial", one councillor complaining that the door knobs there cost more than the door knobs at Buckingham Palace. The new headquarters opened in May 1964, containing "reception office, magnificent council chamber, strong room, rest rooms, kitchen and canteen".



North Kesteven District Council

When NKDC was established in 1984 it inherited the property of Sleaford Urban District Council, Kesteven County Council and also North Kesteven Rural District Council, all of which were merged to create the new authority. The original plan was to have the NKDC offices in Bracebridge Hall on the Newark Road in Lincoln.

Instead, the new council's offices were based at The Hoplands in the old East Kesteven RDC headquarters and in the 81 rooms of the former Kesteven County Council offices in East Road, Sleaford, except for the planning department, which was originally at Lafford Terrace and but later moved to Mount Pleasant near the William Alvey School. The full district council met in the former RDC council chamber at the Hoplands.

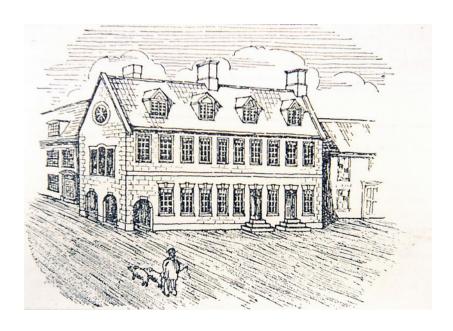


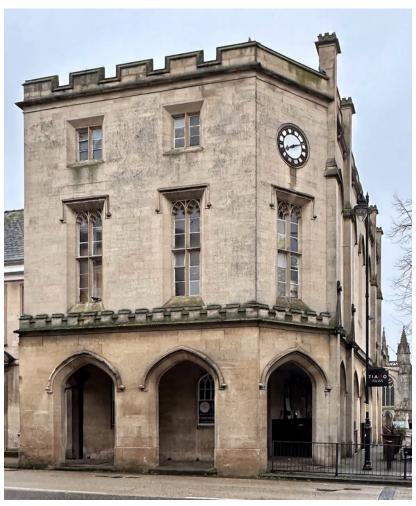
In 1991 NKDC built a large extension between the old Lafford Court offices and Kesteven Street, adding 35,000 square feet for more offices and a new council chamber so that all NKDC operations could be based in one building.



As a result, the Hoplands building was eventually sold to Lincolnshire County Council, who converted it into a new police station which opened in 1998.

A Walk Around the Market Place





Sleaford Sessions House.
Completed in 1830. Built by
Charles Kirk to a design by Henry
Kendall, it replaced an earlier
building of about 1750.

It is bigger than its predecessor because the new Sessions House incorporated the "Mitre" public house and dwelling house next door (on the right).

Used for meetings of the Kesteven Quarter Sessions, it was also the original venue for meetings of Sleaford Urban District Council (until 1911) and Kesteven County Council (until 1960).

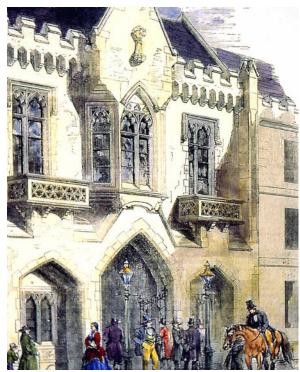


17 Market Place. It was a draper's shop from about 1750 onwards. It was bought by Sleaford entrepreneur Thomas Fawcett in 1821 and completely rebuilt, including the house and yard at the rear. It remained a draper's shop until Sharman and Barty sold up in 1907. The upper room of the pre-1821 shop also served as Sleaford's theatre in the 1790s and early 1800s.



Bristol Arcade. Previously the town's most important hotel, the Bristol Arms closed in 1958. It was re-named after Lord Bristol became a Marquis in 1826. Before then it was called the Angel Inn and is first recorded in 1538.





Sleaford Corn Exchange built by Kirk and Parry in 1857. The butter market beneath it also served as Sleaford's first cinema between 1912 and 1928. Note the wheat sheath at the top of the building.



Town House (right) and 10 Market Place (left).

Town House (12 Market Place) was occupied by the Bissill family, who were surgeons and doctors, from the late eighteenth century. It was rebuilt in 1853. It served as the local doctors' surgery until after the Second World War. 10 Market Place is all that remains of the George Inn, one of the town's main coaching inns, which stood here between about 1719 and 1821.



War Memorial and half-timbered building. The War Memorial was unveiled in June 1922. The half-timbered building was built in 1929 and replaced the old Morton's print works, which moved to Carre Street in 1908. It had been a print works since it was first built by Charles Millhouse in 1819.

Burton & Co (below right), previously Trustees Savings Bank and before that Sleaford Savings Bank (1879) and (below left) Solo Bar and Chattertons Solicitors, previously the house of Arthur Henry Peake and the offices of Sleaford solicitors Peake, Snow and Jeudwine.





Former **HSBC bank**, before 1913 Lincoln and Lindsey Bank. Present building 1903, replacing an earlier one of 1863-1866.



Former **Barclays bank**, before 1911 Stamford, Spalding and Boston Bank, built around 1896 and expanded c.1950.



Interflora House (left) and 24 (right). Place Market Interflora House was built in 1973 as Flaxwell House by Flaxwell Developments, as part of the same project that saw the building of the Riverside Centre (originally Southgate Precinct). 24 Market Place is a late seventeenth or early eighteenth century building, now part of Interflora House. It was a draper's shop in the nineteenth century, then in the early twentieth century became Hunter's Tea Stores.

Cross Keys Yard. This began as a track leading to a dye pond in the seventeenth century and later became the access road to Sleaford Navigation Wharf (1794).

The yard was privately owned and became so built up that it was difficult for traffic to reach the wharf until Carre Street was built in 1822-3. The Cross Keys inn (originally the Saracen's Head) was established in the 1750s.







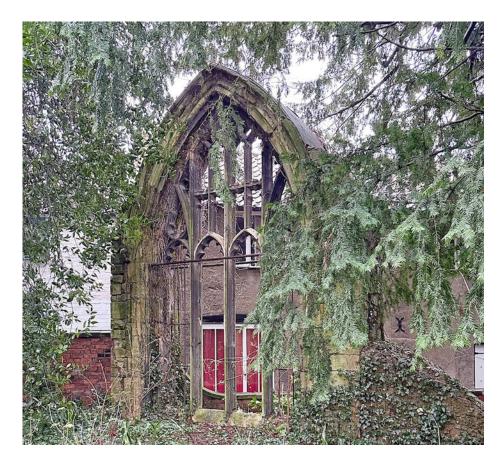
Lloyds Bank, before 1911 Peacock, Handley and Kirton Bank. (left) New bank building 1904, extending the earlier bank building (right).

The bank was founded in the Market Place (in the building immediately to the rear) in 1792 and moved to this building in 1803. Before that the earlier bank building was the home of William Alvey (1669-1729), founder of the Sleaford school that still bears his name.





St Denys Church, Sleaford. The oldest parts, the tower of about 1180 and the spire of about 1200, were hit by lightning in 1884 and rebuilt from the ground upwards by Maxeys of Sleaford under the direction of Kirk and Parry. Also shown in 1857.



A Perpendicular window that had weakened the structure was removed during this restoration and erected as a folly at the rear of the churchyard.



Sleaford Vicarage. The timber framed section is fifteenth century, with a chimney piece inside dated 1568. The red brick wing was added by Charles Kirk in 1861.



The Town Lock-Up. Built by the parish authorities in about 1805 as a holding cell for the nearby Sessions House, the vicar purchased it in 1824 to take it out of use because he objected to its use so close to consecrated ground.



Carre's Hospital Almshouses, founded in 1636 by Sir Robert Carre in his former family residence. It provided accommodation for 12 poor men from the Sleaford area. The Trust founded in 1636 still runs it as social housing. The east wing was built 1794-1801 and refronted by Charles Kirk 1831. The south wing and chapel were built by Charles Kirk 1845.



Prestige Nursing Care. This building was built in 1844 by Joseph Smedley, the former actor who had built the Playhouse in Westgate. Smedley bought Robert Thornhill's printing business and took over in 1841 and his daughter Georgiana later ran it as a printers and stationers until her death in 1898, when the Sleaford branch of Smith Ellison & Co Bank moved here. In 1918 they merged with Union of London and Smiths Bank, which became the National Provincial Bank in 1918 and the National Westminster in 1970. It closed in 2017.

A stroll down Jermyn Street

26 Jermyn Street was the home of William Rowland, tanner, who originally leased a tanning yard (now Jermyn Street car park) from Lord Bristol in 1770 and later moved it to the area where the Roman Catholic Church now stands.





The datestone "WR 1793" can still be seen high up on the wall.



22 and 23 Jermyn Street were constructed after builder Charles Kirk bought up much of the land at the western end of Jermyn Street to act as the headquarters of his firm. By 1846, his son-in-law Thomas Parry occupied 22 and coal merchant George Gladstone (after whom Gladstone's Yard was named) occupied 23.

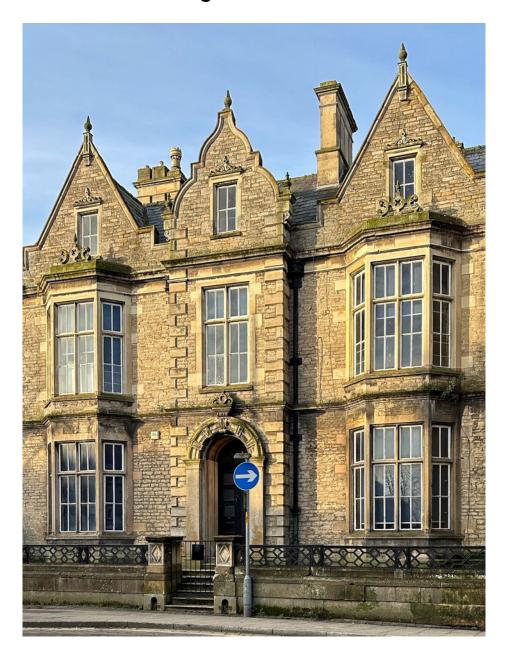


Zion Chapel (now Nos. 30-32 Riverside Close) was originally the house of Southgate baker John Bond, who applied for it to be used as a dissenters' meeting place in 1776 and in 1779 gifted it to the congregation in his will as a permanent meeting house. They were initially members of the sect known as "The Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion", although under the influence of successive ministers they were later known as "Independents" and "Congregationalists". They eventually moved to a new and much more impressive church in Southgate (now The Source). The building was later converted into workshops.



Sleaford Roman Catholic Church was built in 1889. Father Hermann Sabela (who laid the datestone) was a German priest who fled the persecution of Roman Catholics by Bismarck. He started preaching in the open air at Sleaford Cricket Club, catering for the migrant Irish harvest workers who came to the Sleaford area every year. The original Roman Catholic mission was the 1882 "School Church" to the rear (now the church hall) and the Presbytery next door.

Travelling from South to North



The Mansion House was built in 1842 by Charles Kirk the elder (1791-1847), the founder of firm Kirk and Parry, builders and designers, whose work included church restorations and railway infrastructure across the country between 1830 and 1909. It was later the home of his son Charles Kirk the younger (1825-1902), architect, who restored 65 churches. It became Kesteven and Sleaford High School for Girls 1902.

Nag's Head Passage cottages were built in 1841. One carries the date stone "SP 1841". Originally known as "Kirk's Passage", they were built on the southern side of a much older trackway that marked the parish boundary between Old Sleaford to the north and Quarrington to the south.





The Source is a multi-use centre and café based at the United Reform (formerly Congregational) Church. The church was built in 1868 to replace the former Zion Chapel in Jermyn Street. Three shops and half a dozen other buildings had to be cleared to make way for it. Congregational minister George Raymond Bettis (who was minister 1863-1870) was largely responsible for raising the funds and seeing the building project through to completion.



Westholme Drive (on the right of the picture) was created in about 1872 by Thomas Parry as a replacement to the Leicester Street entrance to his property at Westholme, complete with a lodge (a short distance along the drive). At the same time, he also redeveloped nearby Border's Yard into Parry's Court (shown in the picture). The area around Westholme Drive had formerly been the site of the old Northgate George Inn, a large establishment with a yard that led back onto Puddingpan Race, an early track parallel to Westgate. The Old George burned down in a fire which destroyed much of this part of Northgate in about 1690 but the Old George Yard was a feature of the area for much longer. After the George burned down, a new and smaller inn was built to replace it. This stood just south of Parry's Court (now the site of an estate agent) and was called the Five Bells, because the peal of St Denys church just across the road was five bells in this period.



Lindum House (23 Northgate) was built in about 1802 by John Brittain, merchant and brewer of Sleaford, on land that had previously been part of the Old George Yard. After he died it had various owners including draper William Bates (who appears to have given it the name Lindum House in about 1870) and later solicitor William Foster. In 1897 it became Sleaford's post office and telephone exchange. The post office moved to Southgate in 1933 but the telephone exchange remained here until 1967, when it was replaced by a new automated one in Westgate.

Woodford House was named after William Woodford, one of a very wealthy Sleaford family, who owned the property at the end of the eighteenth century. It became part of the property portfolio of Sleaford entrepreneur Thomas Fawcett, and was sold after his death in 1831 to Charles Rogers, attorney (hence "CR" over the gate). He and William Foster of 23 Northgate were partners and established their offices next door (later Godsons solicitors and Sills and Betteridge). During the First World War, the government took over Sleaford Workhouse in Eastgate to house German prisoners of war and HH Foster, who now owned it, gave Woodford House as a temporary hospital and accommodation workhouse master and matron while the inmates were sent to other local workhouses.







The Manor House is a seventeenth century building but was much altered by Maurice Peter Moore, solicitor and antiquarian, who lived here between 1842 and his death in 1866. Many of the medieval fragments in it were acquired from unrelated properties, particularly the Old Deanery in Lincoln, and the two datestones (1619 and 1637) may not be authentic. The stables and courtyard were improved by Charles Kirk in 1850. Between 1897 and 1923 it was the residence of Mrs Elizabeth Cross (known locally as "Lady Cross"). She was extremely well connected, being the daughter of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Phipps Hornby and related to the Earl of Derby (Prime Minister 1852, 1858-9 and 1866-8) and Richard Cross (Home Secretary 1874-80). She was a horsewoman, animal lover and influential supporter of local community projects.

The dog bowl was installed in 1901, probably as a memorial to Queen Victoria. The verse on it is an adaptation of "To His Terrier" by William Black.





Rhodes House is a red brick extension to the Manor House, originally built for solicitor Robert Banks in about 1760. Its name was given to it in 1924, when the Manor House property was subdivided. It refers to Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902), mining magnate and South African politician, who spent summers here in the 1870s with his brother Frank, when it was the home of their aunt Sophia Peacock.



Numbers 51 and 53 Northgate were part of the Manor House estate, which extended along Northgate as far as the modern garage just beyond them. All of the houses fronting Northgate between the Manor House and here were either built or modified by Maurice Peter Moore and were decorated with fabricated date stones and armorial devices taken from other (unknown) sites. Despite the 1749 date stone, 51 and 53 Northgate were completed in 1867. The doorway into the passage between them is from a medieval building, probably a church. The Carre family coat of arms above appears to be seventeenth century but its original location is unknown.



Carre's Grammar School was founded in 1604 by Robert Carre of Sleaford. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries it met at Carre's Almshouses in Eastgate before being transferred to the transept of St Denys' Church in the 1780s and disappearing in about 1814. In 1834 it was re-founded on a new site in Northgate, designed and built by Charles Kirk on land donated by Lord Bristol. The red brick extensions date from the Edwardian period, when the number of pupils began to grow.

The entrance to Church Lane (known in those days as "Back Lane") had to be moved to accommodate the new building. It originally emerged where the headmaster's house (the building with the coat of arms) was built.



The Northgate Almshouses were built as an extension of Carre's Almshouses in Eastgate. The project involved closing down and demolishing several pubs and lodging houses on the site that had become notorious as "the plague spot of the town" and "houses of ill-fame". It was designed by Charles Kirk the younger and built by Kirk and Parry and continues to provide eight additional almshouses for the charity.

The Savings Bank next door was part of the same project as the almshouse extension and was also built by Kirk and Parry. It replaced an earlier savings bank set up in 1818 in the justices' rooms at the Sessions House in the Market Place and was designed as a place where working men could deposit money and earn interest. It opened just one morning a week on market days. Such banks did not loan money or speculate, investing only government stocks. in Northgate building was used until 1879, when the bank moved back to the Market Place and it was conveyed to the almshouses.



Inns and Public Houses Past and Present



The Waggon and Horses Inn acted as a stopping point for nineteenth century carriers entering Sleaford from the east. It is said to be late medieval, although the only visible date stone (on the eastern side and probably not in its original position) says "WE 1656". Stables and service buildings still stand around the back and the original inn yard is now the entrance to a lawnmower repair shop. It closed in 2011 and is now flats.



The Marquis of Granby Westgate was founded in the 1850s and was one of eight or nine inns and alehouses along Westgate in the nineteenth century. It closed in 2016.



The Victoria was originally known as the New White Hart to distinguish it from the (Old) White Hart Hotel further along Southgate. It was in existence by 1775 and was renamed to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. After the Old White Hart was rebuilt in the 1840s the New White Hart was actually older than the Old White Hart. In 1897 twelve feet were taken off the frontage to widen Southgate and the present stone front added. It closed in 2009.



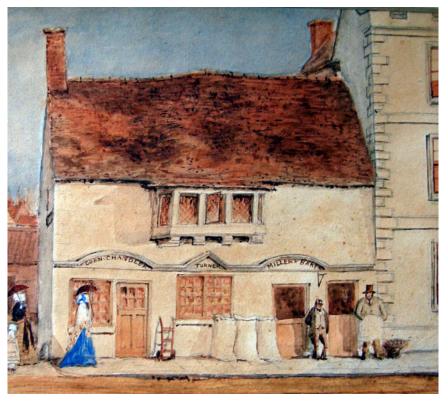
The Old White Hart was Sleaford's largest privately owned hotel. It was originally known as the White Hind and its earliest traceable owner was Richard Copeland, who died in 1726. Next door to it (on the south side of the inn yard) was a pub called the White Horse, which had merged with it by the 1720s to create the White Horse and White Hind, which was then later renamed the White Hart. In 1889 the yard was covered over and served for some years as the town's wool market. The black horse date stone "1691" over the front of the yard should not be black but white, because it came from the earlier White Horse pub. It became a solicitor's office in 2011.

The Ivy (formerly the Nag's Head) was in existence by 1784. It had a large yard and its own brewery. In 2013 it became the Beer and Bean and reopened as the Ivy after a four year closure in 2021.



Watergate Yard reopened in 2018 on the site of the Rose and Crown Inn, which occupied three different but related sites. The oldest one in Southgate may date from before 1672, when a will mentions the inn but not its location. A second site at 17 Westgate followed, and this backed onto the current Watergate site, where it was in operation by 1835. The Southgate and Watergate sites were in the same ownership in the late eighteenth century.

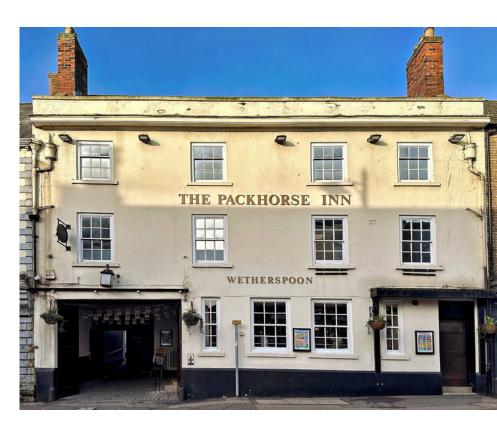




Marquis Granby The of Northgate was one of a group of Northgate public notorious houses in the early nineteenth century and was originally called The Globe. In 1857 it was rebuilt and renamed the Marquis of Granby, with the new frontage being re-used from the baker's shop that had been demolished to make way for Sleaford Corn Exchange in the Market Place in the same year.



The Packhorse was restored and reopened in 2004, following the closure of its predecessor, the Lion Hotel. It was founded in 1821 as an enlargement and rebuilding of the earlier White Lion Inn after it took over the coaching business of the old George Hotel in the Market Place, which closed in that year. However, in the middle of the eighteenth century it had been called the Packhorse Inn, a name JD Wetherspoons then re-adopted when they took it over.



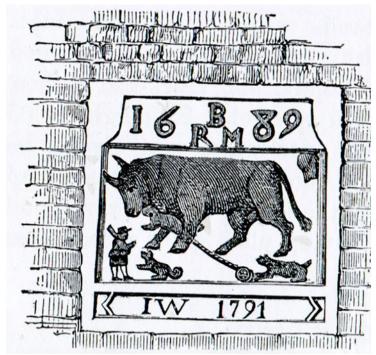
The Jolly Scotchman was originally called the Green Dragon and stood directly on the long-distance drove route between Scotland and England. By the sixteenth century Scottish drovers were using it to drive their cattle to Norfolk, where they were fattened before being sent on to London. By 1750 about 20,000 Scots cattle passed along this route every year. The Green Dragon had four acres of pasture attached to it that drovers could use if they broke their journey there. It was re-named The Jolly Scotchman when a new publican, John Drake, took it over in 1821. One theory about the name (reflected in the current sign) is that it refers to a "scotch" put under the wheels of carts at the turnpike toll gate some yards closer to Sleaford.



However, in the nineteenth century the word "Scotch" was a normal way to refer to a Scotsman and it is likely that the new name simply reflected its droving history.

The Bull and Dog was renamed from the Bull (later Black Bull) in 1995 in a reference to the sign on its front wall, which is dated 1689 and shows a bull being set upon by several dogs. Bull baiting was a common sport and there was a special post tethering bulls for Sleaford Market Place, the last contest being as late as 1807. The sign (which is sometimes claimed to be the oldest of its sort in England) also contains the initials "RBM" referring to Robert and Mary Buckberry, the owners at that time. The earliest innholder known was Dorothy Bolle in 1661. The initials "IW" at the bottom of the sign may refer to Ward family, who the occupied an adjoining property in the 1790s.





Along and Down Westgate

Primative Methodist Chapel established in 1841 for one of several nineteenth century Methodist persuasions in the town. It was replaced by a larger church on a site nearly opposite Westholme House in 1907. The new church was demolished in the 1966 to be replaced by a telephone exchange.



The Playhouse built in 1826 by Joseph Smedley, provincial actor manager (1784-1863), to accommodate his visits to Sleaford during his annual circuit of venues in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. His repertoire ranged from modern comedies to Shakespeare. In 1856 it was converted into an infants' school.



Westholme House (shown below) built by Thomas Parry in French fifteenth century domestic Gothic style about 1849. The surrounding grounds were bought up at different times to form an estate of about 60 acres (now St George's School and playing field).







Westholme Stables built by Thomas Parry between 1846 and 1851.



Newton House is an eighteenth century town house occupied in the second half of the nineteenth century by Thomas Jacobson, one of Sleaford's leading medical practitioners.







Puddingpan Race and Westholme **Drive follies.** This trackway behind Westgate is all that is left of a road known as "Puddingpan Race". medieval track, it Probably а originally ran from Northgate all the way down to Reform Place. In about 1872 Thomas Parry built a new to his drive house access Westholme from Northgate, to immediately the north Race. The recycled Puddingpan church windows along this drive (from Parry's many church restorations) separated it from the Playhouse Yard area of Westgate and were probably erected as follies in Parry's garden in the decades before Westholme Drive was constructed.

Royal Oak Yard. The 1901 Census lists seven tenements/cottages containing 32 people. In Numbers 2 and 5 each contained eight people. The name Royal Oak presumably derives from an earlier alehouse in the front building. sale advertisement of 1741 in the Stamford Mercury indicates that at that time it was called the Peacock along with six tenements. In the past there were many single room alehouses across Sleaford, selling very low alcohol beer which was much safer than drinking the local water.

Westgate Wesleyan
Methodist Chapel built in
1802 by Thomas Fawcett, the
founder of Methodism in
Sleaford. It remained the
Wesleyan Methodist Chapel
until a new and larger church
was built in Northgate in
1848

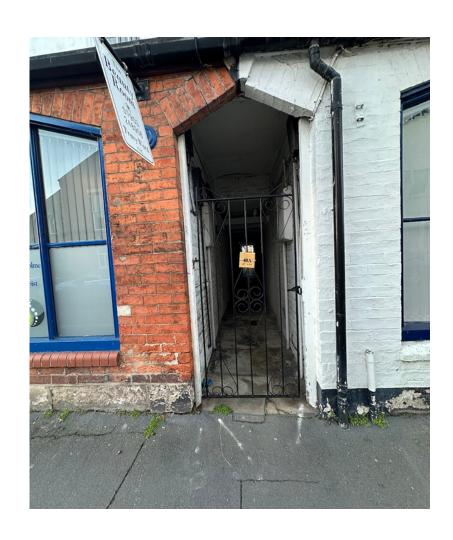


Entrance to Repton's Court.

This alleyway led to some of the many terraces of houses that ran off Westgate in the nineteenth century. Repton's Court was a group of three cottages at the rear of Joseph Repton's property in 1891.

Liverpool Cottages a little further back, were probably built by William Henry Knight in the late nineteenth century.

Knight was the builder of the Manchester and Sheffield, Midland and Great Northern Railway in Liverpool.





Temperance Hall (Pottery Painting Café) built in 1861 to promote the temperance cause in Sleaford and one of the town's principle meeting venues until the 1950s. It was originally called the "Albert Hall" in memory of Prince Albert, who died the year it opened. In 1881 the first floor became a temperance café and reading room.

Public Spaces, Buildings and Places

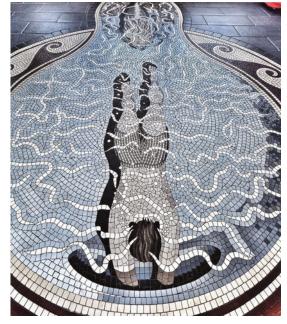
Sleaford Cemetery was opened in 1856 to alleviate overcrowding in St Denys churchyard. The original three acre plot bought from Lord Bristol has been extended several times since then. Unlike many municipal cemeteries there were no chapels on site, probably to save money. The lodge (in the "cottage orné" style) was paid for by Mr Moore and Mr Peake, who had been churchwardens in this period.











Sleaford Leisure Centre incorporates the original Sleaford Swimming Bath, opened in May 1886 largely as the result of a one-man campaign by Councillor William Owen. In 1960 a childen's pool was added (on the site now Sleaford Indoor Bowls Club). Both were unheated outdoor lidos. The large pool was heated in 1972 and converted to an indoor one in 1984. The children's pool closed in 1981.



The Hub, Riverside Green, Navigation House.

The Hub was created in 1997 by converting the former Hubbard and Phillips pea sorting warehouse built in 1939. This replaced an earlier manual pea sorting room of around 1900 with a mechanised facility. Riverside Green was part of a large paddock and private wharf used by local auctioneer Elston Law as the town's first livestock market in the 1870s. Part of it was later converted into Eastgate Car Park.



Navigation House was built in 1838 by Grantham firm and Bothewary Brewin, probably to a design by Charles Kirk, as the office and weighing facility of Sleaford Navigation Company. The company's badge (designed by Sir Joseph Banks) is over the front door.

Money's Yard, Money's Mill and Navigation Portal.

Money's Yard was part of a network of mid-Victorian industrial yards and dwelling houses that grew up off Southgate. Money's Yard proper was the area closest to Carre Street, which contained the offices and warehouses of a seed firm established by John Money and expanded by his step-son JT Exton in the 1880s. It was cleared for a car park in 1979.

Money's Mill was built in the 1790s by Southgate miller and baker Henry Sutton to advantage of the opportunities afforded by the Sleaford Navigation and the private navigable cut that linked it to what is now Money's Yard. By the middle of the nineteenth century it was often run by steam power and in the 1890s the sails were removed.

Navigation Portal is a stone gateway in Egyptian style which now overlooks Carre Street but was moved from an unknown location to this spot, probably in 1823. around It was clearly designed as a grand ceremonial pedestrian entrance to Navigation Wharf and was probably a gift to the Navigation Company by Sir Banks, their Joseph most important backer, in 1792.







The Handley Monument was built by subscription and completed in April 1851 as a memorial to Henry Handley, MP for South Lincolnshire 1832-1841, who died in 1846. Born in Sleaford, Handley was best known as an agricultural reformer. The architect of the monument was William Boyle of London, the builders were Messrs. Cooper of Derby and the sculptor was John Thomas, Supervising Carver at the Palace of Westminster.



Sleaford Museum.

The Boston Road / Southgate junction in the 1930s was seen as the most dangerous corner in Lincolnshire. Even the first car to come through Sleaford in 1897 had an accident there. So in 1932 the UDC and County Council bought up the site complete with small shops on it, and cleared it to make a safer corner.

The town at that time wished to have better public toilets, with the Market Square being the ideal site. However it is thought that Lord Bristol would not give permission. So the new public toilet built by Banks & Son was put on the open space which is now known as Handley Gardens. These opened to the public in 1935. In the 1940s two air raid shelters were also on the site, but never used. The toilets were closed in the 1990s and the site then belonging to Sleaford Town Council.

In 2011 the Sleaford Museum Trust supported by Heritage Lottery agreed a long lease with the Town Council to be able to convert the disused toilets into a Town Museum with free access, which is run the Trust volunteers.

GLADSTONES YARD





Gladstone's Yard was the coal yard of Sleaford coal merchant William Hyde (1775 - 1846), created in about 1823. He also built ten cottages and tenements (demolished in 1959) along the access road from Southgate. George Gladstone was one of a number of coal merchants who leased it and he only held it for about nine years in the 1840s, but his name became permanently attached to it. In 1979 the area was cleared and became part of the Money's Yard Car Park.



Sleaford Recreation Ground started as the nursery of John Sharpe, horticulturalist, which he leased from Lord Bristol. In the 1840s it covered much of the area that is now the front field of the recreation ground and was a sort of Victorian garden centre. Sharpe specialised in dahlias, marigolds and especially roses. In 1847 he advertised that he sold 700 different varieties of rose. His son Charles Sharpe moved the business into seeds in the 1860s and by the 1890s the area had been taken over by Thomas Constable of Kirkby Laythorpe, who was a horse breeder. He began leasing the field ("Mr Constable's Recreation Ground") for public events and as a football field. The lease was taken over by the Urban District Council as the town's recreation ground to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. In 1962 they then bought it from Lord Bristol and added the rear field to make the present recreation ground.

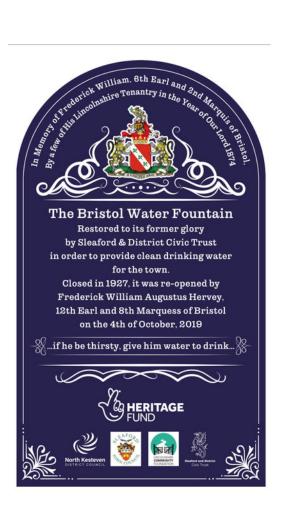
Two hard tennis courts were built by the Urban District Council on the eastern side of the recreation ground to mark the Festival of Britain in 1951 and two more followed in 1979, the courts being taken over by the modern Sleaford Tennis Club when it was formed in 1976. In 2012 four new courts were built in the current location and the old ones grassed over.

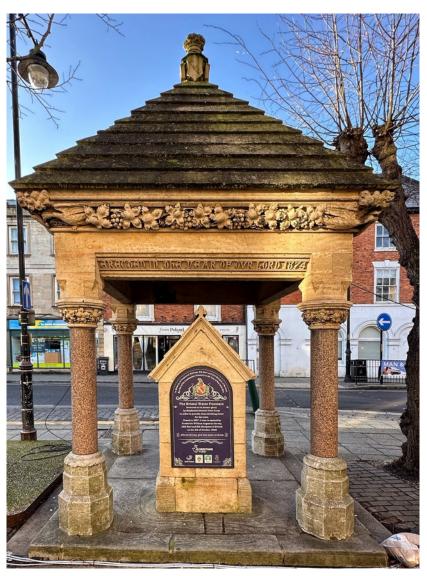






The Bristol Memorial Fountain was constructed in memory of the second Marquis of Bristol, who died shortly after inheriting in 1864. It was designed by Charles Kirk and built by Kirk and Parry in 1874. It was shut down in 1927 because the water supply was found to be unsafe and restored to working order by Sleaford Civic Trust in 2019.









Bass Maltings were built 1899-1905 for brewers Bass, Ratcliff and Gretton of Burton on Trent to a design by HA Couchman. They have a total frontage of almost 1000 feet and the complex consists of eight maltings with a central engine house and workshops and a row of five staff cottages on the access road. The Maltings used the latest technology and were automated with bridges, elevators, conveyor belts and their own railway to connect all parts of the complex. In 1974, they were recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade II* listed building because of their importance as an example of a large-scale industrial malting complex. The Maltings closed in 1960 and three blocks were badly damaged by fire in 1976.

Watergate Fire Station was built in 1900 by Maxeys of Sleaford to replace an earlier engine house of 1829, the date stone of which can be seen incorporated into the wall of the new building. The horses were stabled in Westgate and led along the cobbles of Roaring Bridge Lane when the engines were called out, the water being supplied by the horse slipway that can still be seen alongside the fire station. It remained in use until a new fire station was built in Church Lane in 1953. In turn, this was replaced by a Joint Fire and Ambulance Station in Eastgate in 2018. The building was also the meeting place of Sleaford Urban District Council between 1901 and 1955 and served as the town's library between 1956 and the building of the library in the Market Place in 1987.







Sleaford Gas Works were designed and built by Charles Kirk in 1839. Gaslight came to London in 1814 and by the 1820s a number of towns in rural Lincolnshire were beginning to follow suit. Stamford had a gasworks by 1825 and Boston, Gainsborough and Louth by the following year. In 1838, thirteen years after Stamford but still ahead of a great many English towns, a joint stock "Gas Lighting Company" was formed at a public meeting in Sleaford to provide gas lighting for the streets. From 1st October 1839 until 1901, when the electricity generating station on Electric Station Road took over, Sleaford was lit by gas. This gatehouse façade is an indication of the civic pride and importance that this project had for the town.



Sleaford Castle was built on the western side of the town by Bishop Alexander of Lincoln, then lord of the manor of Sleaford, at some time between 1124 and 1139. It served as the bishop's administrative base when he was travelling through this part of the diocese and also acted as a manorial centre for Sleaford. The great barn at the castle measured about 40 metres in length and was where much of the produce of the manor was stored. The castle fell into disuse after the Bishop of Lincoln sold it in 1547 and it was eventually dismantled for building materials. Only one small section of the outer wall now remains in the north-eastern corner of the site.







The Cut was a privately funded extension to Sleaford Navigation built in 1792-1794 to link properties in the centre of the town with the new navigable waterway. The original plan had been to build the Navigation Wharf to the west of the town at Castle Causeway but The Cut (which extended across what is now Money's Yard car park) gave direct access to the Navigation for a number of properties that fronted onto Southgate. After the Navigation was closed in 1877 The Cut suffered decades of neglect and silting, being filled in and covered over in stages between 1887 and the 1980s until only this short section remained. It was turned into an ornamental water garden by Sleaford Civic Trust in 1975 but was eventually grassed over. In 2022 it was sold to a private buyer

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