

Looking out for Ossett

RUTH AMOS
Ossett Civic Trust

How do you see Ossett? No it isn't a trick question – what is your perception of our town?

In these hard economic times how would you describe your town? Do you barely notice what goes on in your town? Do you work outside of Ossett and come home, shut your door and forget about the area you live in? I hope that you do not take what we have for granted. I believe, compared to a lot of other areas, we are lucky to live in Ossett. Our environment is relatively clean and peaceful.

Ossett Civic Trust is very proud of our town and what all the groups and societies are doing for our community week after week, to ensure Ossett is kept very much to the front of everyone's minds.

Already this year Ossett Civic Trust is proud to have been able to find part-funding along with Ossett Town Partnership to erect a new noticeboard at the side of Ossett Town Hall. You should see this in



OSSETT TOWN HALL: Opened in June 1908, Ossett witnessed an estimated twelve thousand people descend on Market Place for the grand opening of the Town Hall.

place in the next few weeks, this is in addition to the one we already have in place.

'How do you see Ossett? No it isn't a trick question'

To be able to play your part, I would like to invite you to one of our meetings. Also look out for our Ossett Civic Trust stall at the various events, gala's etc and let us know

your views of how we can influence improvements going forward. This is what Ossett Civic Trust is about, raising the profile of Ossett, speaking up on issues that affect our town for everyone who lives in Ossett.

If you would like to know more about what Ossett Civic Trust does, can I ask that you look at our website at ossettcivic-trust.co.uk or come along to our meeting which is

the last Thursday in the month held at 7.30pm, Ossett Community Centre, Prospect Road, Ossett and you will be made very welcome indeed. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yearly subscription rates are:
£5 Concession
£10 Single
£15 Family
£25 Corporate



Become an Ossett Shopper!

Our shopping bags not only help Ossett shops to attract more visitors to the town, but they are also beneficial to the environment by helping to cut the use of plastic bags. The *Ossett Shoppers'* have not only been spotted in Ossett but also across the country, several have been sent around the world. Each and every bag has one aim, to promote our town. So don't delay and go and buy your own *Ossett Shopper* from shops across Ossett.

EVENTS

LIVERPOOL TRIP

We are going to Liverpool for our next trip on Saturday 24th April, leaving the Community Centre at 8.30 am. Ticket prices are £16.00 adults, £8.50 for children. There is a £1 reduction for Ossett Civic Trust members. Contact Ruth Amos on 01924 276033 after 6pm for more details.

SPRING MEAL

We're holding our next social meal at the Ghandi Spice in Ossett on Thursday 15 April at 7.30pm. All current and new members are welcome to this spring time social gathering.

Snow fails to stop New Year meal

On Thursday 14 January, *writes Ruth Amos*, members of Ossett Civic Trust and their wives, partners and friends had a really great evening despite the weather being very cold and snowy underfoot! It didn't deter twenty one of us from having a great time.

One of the aims of the Ossett Civic Trust is to support our local businesses in any way we can and the idea was to enjoy one of our lovely restaurants and bars we have



in Ossett. So we held a vote and it was decided to visit Da Livio's on the corner of Dale Street and Church Street. We were made very welcome and the menu was very

extensive. Did you know that this restaurant sells frogs legs? Well, I can tell you we cleared the restaurant of every portion and I am reliably told they were delicious. I think that speaks for itself. The food was piping hot and of a very high quality. They also do a really lovely ice cream which is well worth trying.

As you can see from the photograph we really do enjoy ourselves at Ossett Civic Trust !

Golden Celebrations

Peter Savage looks back at the start of the Elizabethans' Amateur Operatic Society as it embarks on it's Golden Jubilee year...



THE inaugural meeting of The Elizabethans' Amateur Operatic Society took place at South Ossett School on 6th September 1960. The photograph above shows the full cast of HMS Pinafore, which was the first production by them and took place at South Ossett school early in 1961.

In the photograph are two members who continued their membership to the present day and three who have broken service. The stage and scenery was built and painted by members of The Elizabethans' and the show was produced by the choirmaster of Christ Church, Arthur Hebb and the Musical Director was organist Jack Bedford.

The Society were so successful that it soon became clear that the

school could not hold everyone who wanted to support them so in 1963 they moved into Ossett Town Hall with another Gilbert & Sullivan favourite Iolanthe and have performed an annual stage production there ever since with two concerts each year, some of which had international singers – Owen Brannigan, Thomas Round, Elizabeth Harwood, Valerie Masterson and many more.

This year they will be presenting a musical which had its first performance in the 1960's, The Likes of Us, with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. It is based on the early life of Dr Thomas Barnardo and how he founded homes for children taken from the streets of the East End of

London.

In October they will be presenting a Golden Jubilee concert with guests West Yorkshire Brass with music taken from their productions over the past fifty years which have a wide range and appeal. Not only Gilbert & Sullivan but the magnificent music of Strauss, Lehar and Dvorak, musicals by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe and wonderful British musicals such as Oliver, Half a Sixpence and The Matchgirls.

Looking to the future, together with the junior section e.chaos (Elizabethans' Childrens Amateur Operatic Society), it looks bright and who knows how the Diamond Jubilee or the Centenary will be celebrated?

THE OSSETT CIVIC TRUST COMMITTEE

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Ruth Amos

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Lynn Ross

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Ossett, Rotherham and home again...

New Ossett Civic Trust member Tony Sargeant tells how he recently moved back to Ossett after 25 years living in a village outside of Rotherham.

I was brought up in Ossett where both my parents worked. My late father worked at the Highways and Bridges laboratory and he was also a founder member of Ossett and Horbury Round Table. My mother was a teacher at South Ossett

Infants School and still lives in the town, she is the secretary for the Ossett Ladies Luncheon Club.

When my partner David and I moved here, in the back of my mind I thought that the life and people I left would still be as I had left it. For the first few months I walked around all my old haunts looking at people thinking to myself do I know you? I now realise that the world did not stop when I left and people have moved

on just as I have.

David and I are settling down to a new life in Ossett and are starting to take an active role in the area. We are both members of the Ossett Civic Trust where we are interested in aspects of both the old and new part of the town.

We are forging new links with the people who now live here and yes, I have met a few people that remember me, from my school days in Horbury and Ossett.