

CAMPAIGN : Support our campaign clean up our town

HELP US TO TIDY UP OSSETT TOWN CENTRE

RUTH AMOS & ANGELA TAYLOR
Ossett Civic Trust

Ossett Civic Trust has one important question to ask, why do we need the very large recycling skips in Ossett Town Centre?

They are an eyesore and paint a bad image in the centre of town. The recycling skips outside the Maypole pub need to be moved to a more suitable place, out of the town centre – we would like to stress that they do not belong in the middle of Ossett!

Ossett has an excellent recycling timetable for the collection of paper, cardboard, garden waste, bottles and cans and finally all

other household waste. So why do we need these large, ugly skips in the centre of town for paper, cardboard and bottles when these are all regularly collected from our homes?

Therefore, we have decided to start campaigning to have these skips removed from the town centre for good. To help us start the ball rolling, we need the canvas opinion on what you, the Ossett residents feel about these skips in the town centre.

If you feel as strongly about this issue and others to do with our town centre, then please support our campaign to tidy up Ossett. You can either send use a letter or an

email, or just sign our petition so we can show Wakefield MDC how the people of Ossett value their town.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Email Ossett Civic Trust at
info@ossettcivictrust.co.uk

Write to Ossett Civic Trust at
Ossett Civic Trust, C/O Ossett
Community Centre, Prospect Road,
Ossett. WF5 8AN

Ossett Snapshot



PRIDE: The Ossett Coat of Arms on the front of the Town Hall. On a summers day in June 1908, Ossett witnessed an estimated twelve thousand people descend on Market Place for the grand opening of the Town Hall.

www.ossettcivictrust.co.uk

Spicy springtime meal

Ossett Civic Trust has developed a new tradition of supporting local businesses by dining out in Ossett *writes Angela Taylor*

After a lively discussion at one of our meetings the firm favourite for our next sortie turned out to be Gandhi Spice on Bank Street. On April 15th, twenty seven members, family and friends - all enthusiastic and hungry people - arrived at the restaurant.

The atmosphere was welcoming, the staff were incredibly friendly and with their help, many diners proved to be extremely adventurous in their choices. The owner of

the restaurant Sheikh Yousuf Ali, very generously donated a voucher for our raffle and, along with other donated raffle prizes, we managed to raise £66 – a very big thank you to all concerned.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the appetising and tasty food that was prepared for us and, along with the convivial company, had a lively and spirited evening.

We are all awaiting, with eager anticipation, the decision on the venue of our next meal out – why not come and join us?

Details on how to join Ossett Civic Trust are on the reverse of this newsletter.

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.



PINFOLD MYSTERY REVEALED

Ossett Civic Trust member Angela Taylor takes a detailed look at a rare stone structure found in Ossett...

I am not sure that many people in Ossett will know that we are the proud owners of a pinfold.

Pinfolds were originally built to hold animals which were found straying from their owners' land or that were found grazing on the common without common rights. The animals would not be released until a fine had been paid to the 'pinder' who was an officer of the Lord of the Manor and who looked after the pinfold. Breaking into the pinfold to release the animals was an offence punishable by a fine and possible imprisonment. Pinfolds were also used by drovers taking their stock to market. For a small fee they were allowed to pen their animals overnight.

These stone structures are known to date from the medieval period. By the 16th century most villages and townships would have had a pinfold. Most pinfolds that remain today will probably date from the 16th and 17th centuries.

However, the pinfold here in Ossett dates only from 1871. I am led to believe that the original medieval pinfold was somewhere in the area of Dale Street, opposite the Co-operative supermarket.

On April 17th 1871, the local Board of Health (forerunner of Ossett Borough Council) resolved to exchange the original pinfold of 144 square yards with a Mr Gartside, for a plot adjacent to the West Well (120 square yards). Gartside was to pay £50 built a new pinfold with pitch faced walls 3 yards high.

Our 'new' 140 year old pinfold, here in Ossett, is on West Wells Road, opposite the bottom of Headlands Road. However not many people know that over 12 months ago one of the walls was demolished, courtesy of a joyrider!



STRUCTURE: The stone pinfold at the bottom of Headlands Road

Wakefield Council originally refused to take responsibility for the pinfold, saying they have no records of ownership. Several searches have been done and this appears to be true – so far we can find no record of registration of ownership.

'Our heritage is important to us in Ossett and we will fight to preserve it'

However, as the pinfold is in Ossett, at the side of the road and has a three feet drop, the Highways Department said that they would rebuild the wall for us.

I contacted English Heritage who kindly came out to look at the damage. They offered to have the pinfold 'listed' and sent us the specifications to restore the wall back to its former glory. The Highways Department promised to follow the specifications carefully. In the middle of May work began well - the men rebuilding the wall appeared to know exactly what they were doing (the specifications were very complex).

I was disappointed to visit the wall, after they had finished, to find a mish-mash of colours of mortar, the hearing stones had been taken away and replaced by cement and the finish was inappropriate. However, we would like to thank Wakefield Council for taking on the repair, even though they say they are not responsible.

We are determined to see this project through to a satisfactory and proper finish – we want the pinfold back to its original state - the flagstones are to be removed, the ground grassed and a new gate is to be put in place. It may take some time, but we will get there in the end.

Our heritage is important to us in Ossett and we will fight to preserve it. When it is all finished we then hope to have an interpretive panel in place to educate our visitors.

If anyone feels that they could help us in any way, please call Angela Taylor 01924 270729

THE OSSETT CIVIC TRUST COMMITTEE

CHAIR:
Ruth Amos

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Janet Jones

TREASURER:
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PLANNING & LIAISON OFFICER:
David Mitchell

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Ian Day

EVENTS

HARTLEPOOL TRIP

SUNDAY 8th AUGUST: At 8am we are travelling to Hartlepool for the Tall Ships Races, returning about 7.30 pm. The cost of tickets will be £17.50 each adult (£16.50 for Ossett Civic Trust members) and £8.50 for children. Tickets can be purchased at the Ossett Review office.

BARBECUE TIME

SATURDAY 24th JULY: Barbecue in Ossett from 4:30pm onwards. Tickets for this event are £5 each. Email info@ossettcivictrust.co.uk for details on how to get hold of tickets and the venue. The tickets for are limited so it will be firstcome first served.

If you would like to know more about the work of Ossett Civic Trust, please visit our website at ossettcivictrust.co.uk or come along to one of our meetings which are on the last Thursday in the month held at 7.30pm, Ossett Community Centre, Prospect Road.