

Local History 2021 – Our first Zoom talk

On **19 January 50 people** from all four Local History groups joined to participate in our programme of Zoom talks for 2021. The first one being given was by **Andy Skinner** on **A History of Southampton in Buildings**. We listened to his relaxed easy description of Southampton's major historical events from the evidence of buildings that still stand proud in Southampton. Sadly many of the early buildings of the original Old Town were lost during bombing raids. Here are just some of the buildings Andy discussed :



Left : **The Bargate** – entrance to Medieval Southampton

Below : **The Conduit House** – the oldest building left where water was pumped to the city.



The Medieval Merchant's House below reflects the wealth of the city built on wine and wool trades



Below : **The Wool House** where wool was stored before export





Left : One of the elegant buildings of **Carlton Crescent** built in 1825, as the most noteworthy feature of the “genteel upper part of the town” at a time when Southampton was rapidly expanding, both as a fashionable residential resort and commercial centre.

The South Western Building, right, a lavish hotel built when Southampton’s prosperity soared with railway links and the development of the ocean liner trade.



The Civic Centre, left, completed in 1939. Pevsner's *Hampshire: South* describes it as "the most ambitious civic building erected in the provinces in the interwar years".

Today, apart from offices for Southampton

City Council, it also houses the Guildhall, Sea City Museum, the Art Gallery and the library.

Messages received afterwards by members :

I just wanted to say that I enjoyed today’s talk. Thanks for organising it. Look forward to next month’s.

First time on zoom. Enjoyed the talk on Southampton. Must admit rarely been to Southampton, only know IKEA, the shopping centre and Mayflower. It’s been an in and out so it was nice to see some of the buildings.

Lovely talk. Thoroughly enjoyed it. Thanks for all you've done.

Thanks Jane and committee for a very entertaining talk.

Thanks for arranging this, it was an excellent talk, very enjoyable. I’ll look at Southampton with different eyes in future!