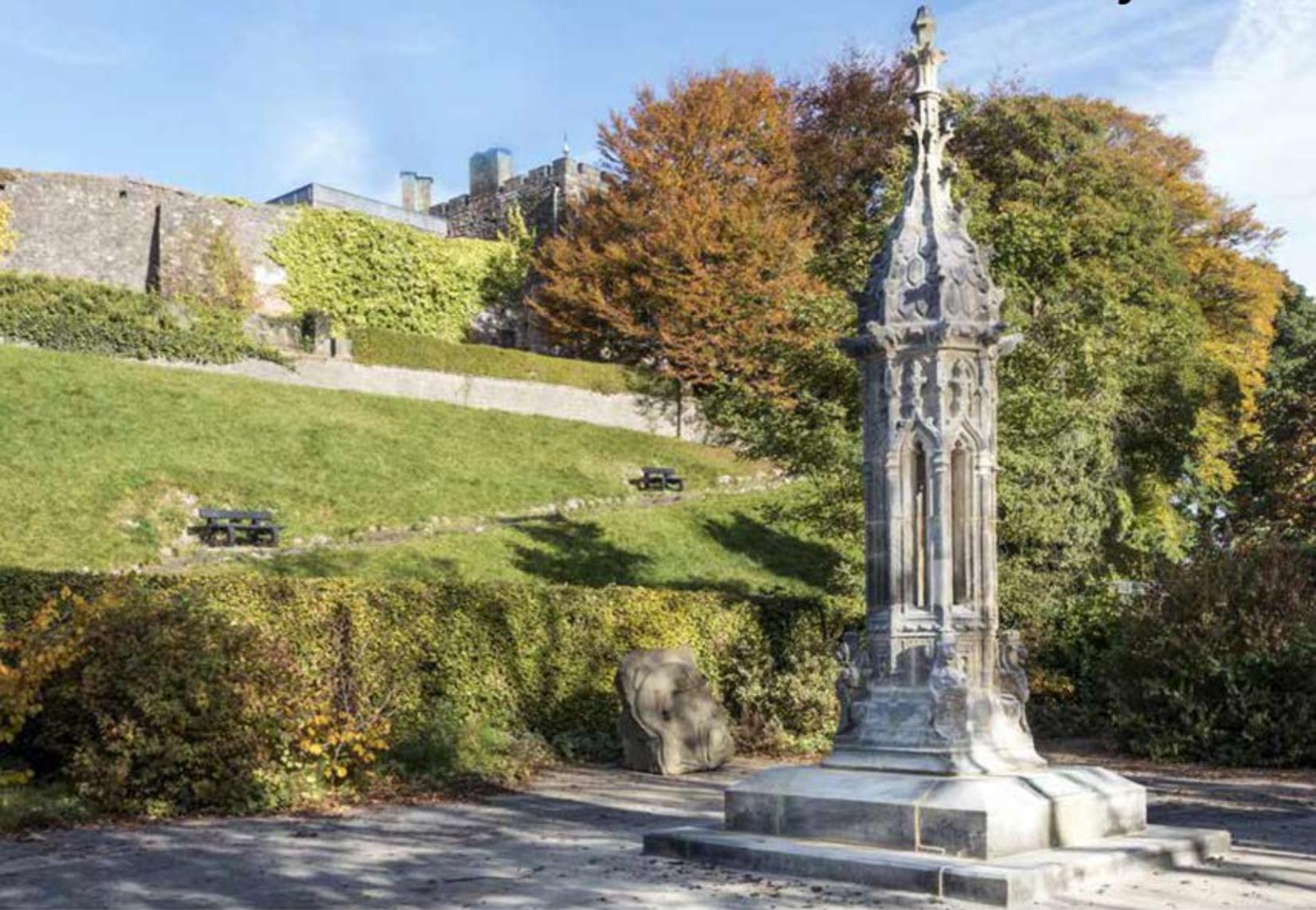

Clitheroe Pinnacle Project



Edited by R Martin Seddon
Foreword by The Lord Clitheroe

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The Pinnacle today

Foreword

The Lord Clitheroe

I was introduced to Sir William Brass at a Garden Party at Downham Hall in 1936. He was a friend of my Grandmother, Lady Assheton, who was much involved in politics at that time. He was a pleasant and generous man and served Clitheroe very well as it's Member of Parliament for over twenty years. His generosity is well demonstrated by his donation of the Pinnacle which has been the subject of this two-year community based conservation project. He bought this and presented it to the town on the occasion of George VI Coronation in 1937.

The Palace of Westminster had been rebuilt after the great fire of 1834 by the Architects, Barry and Pugin, but air pollution had subsequently greatly damaged the stonework and there was a major repair program needed by 1928.

The Pinnacle that came to Clitheroe was part of the Palace that had been replaced and its presentation to the Borough has provided an historic link to Westminster and a reminder, amongst other things, of the days before the 1832 Reform Act when there were two Members of Parliament representing Clitheroe. Indeed, there were two Members for Clitheroe before Manchester had any representatives in Parliament. at all!

Now that Clitheroe no longer has any seat in Parliament at all, this reminder is more poignant and the Pinnacle which resides in the Castle Gardens has even more historic significance in helping us to recall those days and the town's link to 'the Mother of Parliaments'.

So Clitheroe Civic Society's initiative to ensure this historic memorial is retained in good repair and at the heart of our historic borough, along with their endeavors to ensure that this story is more widely appreciated and understood, has been a very timely and successful venture. I, amongst many others, have therefore to congratulate them - and all of their 'project partners' who are referred to in the following pages of this book - for their great efforts in bringing this about.

Introduction

Pauline Wood

Chairman, Clitheroe Civic Society



Severe cracks on the top of the pinnacle

[RMS]



One of two plaques on the plinth

[RMS]

It all began in October 2013. Walking through the castle grounds, I came to the turret. (That was its name for generations but we now know it as the pinnacle which is its correct architectural name.) This fine, imposing structure looked dilapidated - far from my memories of past years. I was dismayed to find cracks and large gaps between what had once been finely carved pieces of stone.

After reading the pair of brass plaques on the plinth which reflected so much dignity and civic pride, I decided then, as Chairman of Clitheroe Civic Society, to ask members if they would be willing to investigate the possibility of some form of conservation. The answer was a unanimous “Yes”.

In February 2014, Steve Burke, conservation architect, carried out a survey of the pinnacle which highlighted many significant defects in the limestone masonry.

A Public Petition of Support was signed by almost 1700 people in a week, giving evidence of the community’s approval for the idea.

The decision was taken to apply for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant and months of finding initial funding and Project Part-

ners followed whilst we waited for the Lottery grant decision. With Clitheroe Town Council giving us a generous donation, we were off the mark. A list of further donations is added as an appendix. The traditional and legendary Lancashire generosity was very much in evidence. A project team of Steve Burke (leader), R. Martin Seddon (project manager), Tony Goodbody (treasurer), Len Middleton (conservationist) and myself was formed. Ivan Wilson was appointed as our Consultant Conservation architect to prepare the detailed information to support both HLF and Listed Building Consent applications.

We were awarded an 89% grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the project. What excitement and relief in equal measure! The Project Team and all Members who had worked so hard to raise both funds and public awareness for the Society’s first project were delighted and ready to move forward. Events speeded up and a weekly bulletin in Clitheroe Advertiser and Times kept the public informed of progress from the award of the grant, the appointment of the contractor right up to the completion of repairs in October 2016.

For me personally, the most enjoyable and rewarding parts were:

- the two fund-raising events we held - the Cheese and Wine Evening at Downham Hall and the concert at The Grand;

- the wholehearted involvement of Pendle Primary School whose artwork was displayed in town throughout the summer of 2015 and which gained the pupils Trinity College London Art Discovery certificates. These were presented at the Pendle Pinnacle Presentation event in February 2016 where a fantastic Pinnacle cake produced by Linda Middleton was quickly demolished!

- and finally, the “topping out” ceremony with HRCL (the building conservation contractor who did such superb work on the delicate masonry. As tradition demands, a toast of champagne was drunk and a small lead cap inscribed simply CCS 2015 was put on the very top to identify this latest event in the history of “our pinnacle”..

Now, as I write in April 2016, there are a few things still to do to finish the whole project. The information boards and the signposts in the park showing the way to the renamed Pinnacle Garden, the production of this book, a museum display and an end of project site visit and workshop to be held with UCLan post-graduate student in October 2016.

This has been an unbelievably satisfying and successful project and a gift from Clitheroe Civic Society to the town and community.



Pendle Primary School pupil's artwork in a town centre shop window.

[RMS]



The topping-out ceremony.

[RMS]