



**The Peace Window
Doncaster Mansion House**

When the Mansion House was opened in 1749 this large window was an important architectural feature of the main staircase. It actually formed the upper part of the rear wall of the staircase. In the 19th century, the small, balcony salon was constructed and the staircase window was moved back to form a floor to ceiling feature overlooking the courtyard.

The original Georgian design of the glazing was replaced with an imitation Venetian, textured design in golden yellow with a blue surround. By 1985, this window had become so dilapidated that it became necessary to seek a replacement.

The Peace Window provided an unique opportunity to create a work of art which exemplifies the very best in craftsmanship and is dedicated to the ideal which we all seek, of Peace between Nations, a fitting contribution to International Peace Year 1986.

The window is divided into three, a large central portion rising to ceiling height and two side panels. The central panel is dominated by the Coat of Arms of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council and includes the motto 'Be Steadfast'. Eight white roses represent the constituent Authorities which amalgamated to form the Metropolitan Borough and further symbols can be seen denoting the industrial life of the Borough

Below the Arms, the roses of Yorkshire and Lancashire are shown on either side and in the middle, a spray of broom represents Richard I (Richard I gave the first Royal charter to Doncaster in 1194). The white rose of Yorkshire is held in high esteem by the people of South Yorkshire and the red rose of the House of Lancaster is also of great significance, because it was in Doncaster that Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, called a rebel Parliament and later Henry Bolingbroke, son of the Duke of Lancaster made an oath in the Carmelite Friary to claim the Throne of England on the death of his father John of Gaunt. His descendant, Queen Elizabeth II, is the Duke of Lancaster and in that capacity Her Majesty is the owner of Tickhill Castle.

The portcullis in the centre represents the Tudor King, Henry VIII. It was Henry who had the Carmelite Friary in the centre of Doncaster destroyed, clearing the way for a Mansion House to be built on the site over 200 years later.

On either side of the portcullis France and England are represented, on the left the three heraldic lions are symbolic of the Crown of England and commemorate the long association between the Royal Family and the Borough, whilst the right signifies the established peaceful links between England and France as allies from the two World Wars. In the two window panels on either side there are decorative features which remind us of our history.

For instance the development of Doncaster and its region was started by the Roman invasion, this is depicted by the Eagle on the right and on the left a raven represents the Danish invaders. The Normans who constructed Tickhill and Conisborough Castle are remembered by the helmet on the left and the upturned helmet on the right represents the Civil War in England when Parliamentary forces occupied the Doncaster area with Pontefract and Tickhill Castles holding out for the King. The upturned helmet is a stark, traditional representation of death and injury through the War.

Bottom right we see the familiar Doncaster Lion with flag. This symbol has been used from early middle ages as evidence of the ancient traditions and civic freedom in Doncaster. Opposite is the Griffin which represents the famous industry of the Mexborough area, the Rockingham Pottery and Porcelain works where fine and artistic wares were produced in the 19th century.

The final feature of the Peace Window shows doves with inscription, this was inspired by the aims of International Peace Year 1986, and completes this monumental window. The Peace Window serves as a tribute to everyone in the past who has yearned for peace and stands as a reminder to us all today

The Peace Window was designed by Harry Harvey of York (1922-2011), a leading artist in contemporary stained glass design who created over 200 windows in churches, cathedrals and other important historic buildings. His Mansion House designs were inspired by Doncaster's heritage and the ideals of peace.

