

10 years, but he succeeded and the borders became the last part of Great Britain to be brought under central law and order.

Celebrity Advocate: Martin Bell

“Brackenhill Tower is not a great castle or fortress or stately home, but is a vital part of our history which, if not restored, will be lost forever. It is in the border country near Carlisle in what used to be called the Debatable lands where neither English nor Scottish law ruled – as close to the Wild West as there has ever been in this country. It was home to the Reiver family which included the Bells and I like the idea of coming from a long line of cattle rustlers, villains, blackmailers and extortioners. If you don’t vote for Brackenhill Tower the building will crumble and all its history will be lost.”

MIDLANDS

16. CROMFORD MILL, Derbyshire

Listing: Grade I

Date of building: Built in 1771



Considered the father of the modern industrial factory system and the world’s first industrialist, Richard Arkwright was the youngest of a family of 13 children, born into a working class family in Preston in 1732. Arkwright went into partnership with Jedediah Strutt and Samuel Needs and in 1771 they opened the first water-powered cotton mill at Cromford in Derbyshire – this mill was to see the start of a massive expansion of the cotton trade.

Richard Arkwright II, the son and heir, was a successful banker and landowner. He kept the mills at Cromford in production, but did not develop them further.

Richard Arkwright built the world’s first water-powered cotton spinning mill – taking the first important step towards full-scale factory production. The mills at Cromford with their powered machinery, large workforce and factory village became models for others throughout Britain and the world.

By 1891 part of the mill which was not in use had been leased to a brewery. In 1921 a company making pigment for paint took over most of the site and continued to use the site for this purpose until it was abandoned in 1979. In 1929 fire destroyed two floors of the first mill.

Celebrity Advocate: Matthew Parris

“I appeal for the restoration of Cromford Mill because it is sacred to our nation, sacred to our history, sacred to everything that we are as a people, for good and for ill. This was the world’s first factory. This was the place where industrial production first started, consumerism first started, the way we live now first started. I cannot understand how we have neglected Cromford as we have. We have the opportunity to put that right. We have the opportunity to restore this sacred place and I appeal to you to help us do it.”

17. BETHESDA CHAPEL, Stoke-on-Trent

Listing: Grade II*

Date of building: 1819



In 1819 the current Methodist chapel/ converted coach house occupying the present site of Bethesda was demolished. Bethesda was built in its place, opening for the first time on Sunday 7 May 1820. Bethesda Chapel became the central place of worship of the New Connexion. The annual conferences for the Methodist New Connexion were held at Bethesda, signifying its integral importance to the Connexion.

During the 1860s, the Methodist New Connexion in the Potteries came more or less to a standstill, establishing only one new church in the 20 years up to 1880. In the latter years the congregation dwindled to less than 100, forcing its final closure on 29 December 1985. The present Bethesda Chapel is one of the largest and most handsome non-conformist chapels out of the metropolis.

Celebrity Advocate: Simon Jenkins

“I am supporting Bethesda Chapel because it represents a huge chunk of our national past. It’s not an Anglican church – they are relatively well saved – it’s a non-conformist church with

an ornate classical façade, quite rare for these sorts of chapels. It has a magnificent interior which seats 6,000 people and is bigger than Covent Garden. This is a gigantic building, with splendid architecture, just waiting to be saved.”

18. NEWMAN BROS, Birmingham

Listing: Grade II*

Date of building: Constructed in 1892



The Newman Bros coffin factory, constructed by Richard Harley for the Newman Brothers, is a family-run factory in the jewellery quarter famed for producing the country’s finest coffin furniture which graced the funerals of Churchill, Chamberlain and Princess Diana.

Alfred Newman and his three sons, Horace, George and John, founded the company. Alfred and his son George died a few years apart and Horace continued to run the business with the help of his cousins.

When Horace died the cousins remained in charge of the company, drafting in two managers. Miss Joyce Green joined the company when she was 18. Eventually she was promoted to the board by the cousins as Company Secretary. When ‘the cousins’ died she was left in charge of the company and remained in charge until she closed it in 1999.

At the time of its closure Newman Bros was one of only three remaining coffin furniture manufactures in England.

Celebrity Advocate: Ulrika Jonsson

“This coffin factory not only provided a huge source of income for the local community but was renowned internationally and exported coffins around the world. I think we need to lose our fear of death and, therefore, we need to keep this building and restore it. It would enable us to learn about how we have dealt with death in the past and how death is dealt with in different countries. It could feed the imagination and help us talk about the untalkable. It would make a fantastic museum of some form and needs to be maintained.”

WALES

19. LLANELLY HOUSE, Llanelli, Wales

Listing: Grade I

Date of building: Completed in 1714



In 1705 Margaret Vaughan inherited the house. She then married Sir John Stepney of

Pendergast, Pembrokeshire. They were responsible for the radical rebuilding of the house, and the architectural details and design suggest that there is little reason to doubt that the 1714 dates on the ornate hopper heads represent the date of completion of this work.

Having passed through the family, with the exception between 1827-1855 where Sir John Stepney had passed the house onto his friend William Chambers, the house finally came into the ownership of the Borough Council in 1965. Primarily, since this date, the ground floor of the building has been rented out to various tenants, but over time it has fallen into a dilapidated condition.

Llanelli grew only very slightly during the 18th century and was still just a small town at its close. However, at the end of the century the recent demand for coal to fuel the ongoing Industrial Revolution had led to the beginnings of a rapid increase in the output and export of local coal, and, in the early 19th century, the establishment of important industries within the town itself and its immediate environs.

Celebrity Advocate: Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen

“I’ve always been a little bit in love with Llanelli House. It is a very engaging structure and you can actually see people living in it, which is when historic buildings really start to come alive.

“I think the concept of saving our historic architectural legacy has suddenly become something really sexy. History surrounds us and it is as much a part of our lives as rock ‘n’ roll.

“However, the most compelling reason why Llanelli House should be restored and saved is the fact that if you don’t, I will buy it, paint it purple, cover the roof in pink fur fabric and sell it to Kylie for £65 billion.”