



HARROGATE CIVIC SOCIETY

November, 2011

Chairman's Report

I have so many events and topics to mention that I am not sure where to begin and I do not suppose that I shall include everything!

I was very sorry to hear of the death last month of Shirley Head who had been treasurer and secretary for the Knaresborough Civic Society for many years. She was a member of our society and had been great friends with Lilian Mina (who used at one time to live in Knaresborough). Shirley and the Knaresborough Civic Society supported us in our efforts to save the Royal Hall.

You will all no doubt have had the recent 'Newspaper' from the Council regarding the Local Development Framework, entitled 'Plan the Future With Us'. There are a lot of stages and aspects of consultation concerning the LDF that we have been through and are yet to come. I am struggling - not very successfully I fear, with some of the proposals. I attended one of the public exhibitions at Harrogate Library and have a large amount of documentation to consider. I do hope that you have made your views known to the Council on any aspects of interest to you. The current consultation period ended on the 4th November, but there will be further stages when the views of the public are invited.

I expect you will have heard of the R.A.S.H. organisation - Residents Against Spoiling Harrogate. They arranged a public meeting regarding all the possible development sites for housing and employment in Harrogate. It was held at Ashville College on 18th October and was very well attended. I went along as did several other members of the Harrogate Civic Society. I hope many responses to the Council were inspired by the event.

I was recently invited by the Council planning officers to a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) meeting. The SHLAA is a document that Planning Authorities have to produce and it is undergoing its second review. It is a record of all sites that have been put forward by land owners and developers and some identified by the Council that could possibly be future housing sites. Certain types of land are excluded though - those that have no realistic prospect of development. Exclusions include land in the green belt, the best and good employment sites and some for other policy reasons. It does not mean that there is a prospect of development on all these sites soon, or indeed ever, but it is like a land bank from which choices may be made to comply with housing demands. Some of you may be sceptical and suggest that this document looks like an invitation to develop, but perhaps I can suggest that, if there are choices, we can choose the least worst options. This, I suppose, is one of the purposes of the latest round of LDF consultation, as there are few obvious and uncontentious sites for housing. Do remember though that small sites, windfall sites and conversions will come forward and when they have contributed to housing growth, the more contentious sites may be saved from development.

Heritage Open Days (HODS) 8th-11th September were very successful again - not just for our District but all over the country. It was pleasing that several new buildings were open to view. The Majestic Hotel arranged a tour for the first time and this was fully booked long before the day. The Old Magnesia Well Pump Room in the Valley Gardens attracted a lot of interest and a lot

of donations. St. Andrew's Police Treatment Centre on Harlow Moor Road was a very enthusiastic new entrant also. This building could be a site for one of our heritage plaques.



We were able to have a stall at Harrogate Library on 15th October as part of their 'Be Inspired' event for local clubs and societies. It ran from 10.00 am till 2.00 pm and attracted quite a lot of interest and we gained a few new members. It is also good that the Society is known to more people - there are many who have never heard of us - can you believe that! I hope that there will be another opportunity to publicise ourselves if the event is repeated next year.

At the time of writing this, we have had just one talk since the last newsletter, when the chairman of Ripon Civic Society, David Winpenny, gave a most interesting presentation on Hackfall Woods at Grewelthorpe. I was disappointed to see only a very few members present. Rachel Grimmer has kindly written a report of the talk, which I am sure you will find most informative. By the time you read this, Michael Bevington will have given us his talk entitled 'A Tour of the Aislabie's 18th Century Water Garden' about the water gardens at Studley Royal.



The Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies (YHACS) at present have an intern. He is a young French man by the name of Maxime Giboulot. He is working for YHACS visiting many member societies to find out how they operate, how successful they are, what problems or fears for the future they have, etc. Already, during his short stay in England, he had visited 15 Civic Societies. He was particularly interested in how the retail centres of towns in the region are bearing up, taking into account the economic situation, out of town stores and internet shopping. I showed him around Harrogate on the morning of 20th October. We took in parts of the conservation area out of town, and because of his particular project on the health of town centre shops, we walked most of the shopping streets. He was, of course, also keen to know what other attractions the town has. I hope he saw sufficient in a short space of time to give a satisfactory report to YHACS. In the afternoon he was taking the train to Northallerton.

**Henry Pankhurst
Chairman**

Make your views known!

We are always pleased to receive your comments and views on items in the newsletter. The Civic Society email address is:-

civicsociety.info@btinternet.com

Or write to me personally at:-

38 St. Clement's Road, Harrogate,
HG2 8LX

Visit the HCS website

The fully illustrated version of Rachel Grimmer's article on Hackfall Woods can be viewed on our website:-

www.harrogatecivicsociety.org

Planning Matters!

The new planning responses that this newsletter covers number 22, which were chosen from the 71 that we studied.

SIGNS AND SHOPFRONTS

This category covers about a third of the new items included in my report. Applications for Signs etc. seem to attract few responses from the general public, but I am sure that our membership can understand the visual harm that excessive signage and poor shopfronts can have to our conservation area and elsewhere.

The proposal to turn the *Mile Post Public House on Leeds Road* into a Sainsbury's 'Local' supermarket did indeed come back as expected. The revised advertisement application was less objectionable, in particular because the totem sign was omitted. It would have been refused anyway, as you may have seen from my previous report. Once again though, a wall sign on the right of the building was not included in the application. I do not know why. An ATM proposed to be set in the extension was shown with a large advertisement panel surrounding it. It is far too large and garish. Usually an ATM will have just a narrow strip above it - that is all.

The signs proposed for the *HSBC Bank on Prospect Crescent* that I noted last time were approved. We would have preferred less clutter on this important building in the conservation area. Who needs 'Welcome' signs stuck to the windows of a bank!

It seems to be a fashion nowadays to cover shop windows, mostly in supermarkets, with advertising. I refer to vinyl stuck to the windows. Supermarkets are not particularly interested in window displays, which generally for most shops make a retail area attractive. ASDA recently put in an application for vinyl stuck to the windows along their colonnade which leads from Bower Road to the store entrance. Although it is not a highly visible area in the conservation area, we decided that we would prefer not to encourage the trend.

I was not surprised however to find that consent was given. On the other hand, I expected an internally illuminated box sign over the door at *13A Leeds Road* to be refused and this was in fact the outcome. The sign was said to be '*inappropriate in terms of its design and method of illumination and consequently would be visually intrusive in a manner that would detrimentally affect the character and appearance of the conservation area*'. Agreed!

I expect you can recall the rather unsuitable appearance of the 'Comet' building on West Park for such a prominent position facing the Stray. We saw an application for two signs at the right hand end of the building - *27 West Park*. One was just a modest nameplate by the door but the other was shown beside a second floor window mounted about 25 feet above the ground. This we find totally unacceptable and usually object to high level signs in the town centre, even when no illumination is involved, as was the case here.

Number 1 Station Square is at present the home of the Harlow Gata Public House, but it is set to undergo alterations to become a 'Zizzi' restaurant. We have seen two planning applications - one for alterations that include the frontages on Station Square and Albert Street, and one for new signage. The main entrance is proposed to be moved from Station Square to Albert Street. We do not mind the entrance being moved, but we suggested that the logical place would be on the corner under the handsome curved pediment. This surely must have been the original doorway. Some improvements were included in the application. A blocked up window on Albert Street would be re-instated. The application has been approved, but there has been no amendment to position the door where we had suggested, only that large scale drawings of the proposed doors have to be approved, which was another thing we had asked for. The advertisement application looked largely satisfactory, but we questioned a possible error in the measurement of a circular sign for the window below the curved pediment.

Those of you who have read previous planning reports in our newsletters will know that petrol stations and car showrooms appear frequently as extreme offenders regarding obtrusive advertisements. We looked at signs for *Stratstone Honda on Freemans Way/Wetherby Road* but did not feel strongly against them this time. The totem sign applied for was a replacement and not so bad as these things go! We were not happy about two totems applied for by the *Jennyfield Co-op* though. The height, colours and internal illumination makes them very obtrusive on the attractive grass verge with its trees.

My last item in this section is 44-46 Parliament Street - the 'Restaurant Bar & Grill'. They have twice before asked to be allowed a frontage that opens up completely. We objected to applications in September 2008 and March 2009, but here we go again! The previous proposals were refused and the decision notices included the same wording '*The shopfront, due to its folding design, would detract from the character and appearance of both this building and the Harrogate conservation area and would also potentially increase noise transmission from the premises to the detriment of existing and future occupants of nearby residential units*'. Our opinion was and is exactly the same as the planning officers.

LARGER HOUSING SITES

I may be a little out of date with my first reference. The *Spacey Houses Farm* application to convert the farm buildings to dwellings and add several new houses was approved. We regarded it as a very good scheme to re-use and largely preserve these listed buildings.

The two Yorkshire Water sites - *Harlow Moor Road and Cornwall Road* have been in the pipeline for some time now. We agreed with the developers that the Cornwall Road part of the application should be designed in Duchy Estate style to fit in with this part of the conservation area and not include affordable housing - not that we would like to see a shortfall of affordable homes provision overall. We and others who support the scheme are of the opinion that a reasonable mix of market housing and affordable housing

should be built on the Harlow Moor Road part of the application and financial contributions made to cover the remainder. This is the opinion of the local ward Councillors too.



The planning officers are strongly against the development because of the lack of affordable homes on the Cornwall Road reservoir site and the lack of design detail for both sites.

Number 11 Ripon Road is a large house that was in use as offices for some time, but recently has been vacant. The proposal is to convert it into four apartments plus building a block of nine apartments at the rear which would involve demolition of a side extension to achieve proper access. The architect was kind enough to send us plans before the planning application was sent in. We are quite happy about several aspects. The front garden would be restored to a large extent and to revert to the original use of No.11 seems appropriate to us. Parking would be partly hidden in the rear garden, being dug in and roofed over with turf so as to look much like a garden area. We did however think that the new apartment block at the bottom of the garden was built too close to three boundaries and made rather intensive use of this site in the conservation area. The planning officers found several reasons to recommend refusal - loss of office space, the scale of the new apartment block being to the detriment of the conservation area, access onto the Ripon Road and that the rear parking would not provide a safe environment.

SMALLER HOUSING SITES

There are no further comments in relation to any cases in this category that were covered last time. All loose ends were tied up. We looked at a proposal for a house in the garden at *55 Rutland Close* which we regarded as a blatant example of 'garden grabbing' and cramming. The Duchy Estate is, of course, designed with very low building to plot ratios. The house would have been built in front of and in tandem with the existing property, but the application has been withdrawn. It had got as far as being on the Council planning agenda for 16th August and was withdrawn a few days earlier. The officer's recommendation had been to refuse.

At *28 Leeds Road*, which is very near to Royal Crescent, the roof space is to be converted to a flat. There were a few points about windows and roof lights etc. but generally the proposal was acceptable. However, an entirely unacceptable detached house was proposed to be built to the rear of *42 Ripon Road* on the back road called Hollins Mews. This was another example of cramming, being on the car parking area of No. 42 on a right-angled bend of a narrow back road. The recommendation is for refusal for the same reasons as our objections. However, the proposal has been withdrawn and so has been taken off the Council planning agenda for the 25th October.

My final entry here is for a pair of semi-detached houses to the rear of 9 Regent Parade. It is in fact on a car parking area of Mowbray Square, where the newly built combined doctors' surgeries stand. Next to the plot is an existing planning consent for a terrace of 5 dwellings. The design for the semis underwent improvements during the progress of the application and we are content with the scheme which has been approved.

WIND TURBINES & TELECOM MONO-POLES

I hope that you will not be disappointed when I say that I have few new ones to report this time. In relation to wind turbines, you will see a short item elsewhere in this newsletter from our members Gia and Malcolm Margolis.

To bring you up to date, the revised application for a wind turbine at *Hill Top Lane, Pannal* has been approved. The turbines proposed for Stean Beck Farm and Whitbeck Farm, Lofthouse, both in the Nidderdale AONB, have been refused as expected. A new entrant here is a wind turbine at *Bowes Green Farm, Bishop Thornton* which has been approved. This one is higher than the fairly common 15m plus rotor. It is 24.6m (or 81 feet) high, plus rotor. The latest one I have to report on is at ***Well House Farm, Felliscliffe*** and it is the 'standard' 15m high. The site for it is within the AONB where the rules are strict regarding all types of development and I suggest that the chances of approval are slight.

A telecoms monopole and equipment cabinet was applied for again outside *40 Crab Lane*. The application was almost identical to the one noted last time. It was again refused.

OTHER APPLICATIONS

Planning officers recommended approval of the new plans for the Mile Post Pub. The planning committee were not content though and wished to refuse Sainsbury's proposal on the grounds of highway safety and the impact on the vitality and viability of the District Shopping Centre (Leeds Road). Because the officers believed that these reasons could not be sustained by policy, the application has to be heard again by the District Development Sub-Committee. The officers said that the only point at issue in their terms was the proposed extension, as highways had not requested refusal for traffic and/or safety reasons and to change the use from Public House to a shop was allowable under use class regulations.

A further application concerning only the ATM and the refrigeration plant has been submitted. We objected to this as the refrigeration plant will impact on residential amenity, due to noise along with the air conditioning units. Also the design looked ugly with steel mesh and timber boarding.

You may have heard that M & S propose opening a 'Simply Food' store on the Nidd Vale Motors site! This is not yet in the form of a planning application, but it probably will be fairly soon.

We were very disappointed that the 436 space car park north of the Pine Woods proposed by *Harlow Carr Gardens* has been approved - but only just. The vote was 7 for, 7 against and 1 abstention. The chairman's casting vote secured the approval and so, with his assistance, part of our designated Special Landscape Area falls to car parking.

Another development in the SLA that has now got permission is the very large extension to the *Harrogate Spa Water Bottling Plant*. At least it has not encroached on another field, but is confined to their existing land. As noted previously, we did not object to any extension at all, but were concerned about the large scale proposed.

The addition of an upper deck to the *Harrogate Hospital* car park has been approved.

The proposed oncology centre between Wetherby Road and the hospital has also been approved.

A revised application was seen for *3 Hollins Crescent* consisting of an extension to replace the garage and a new garage on the other side of the bungalow as I described in the August Newsletter. I believe that the planning officers were still not happy with it and the application has been withdrawn. That though is probably not the end of the story as we believe that the applicant may build something that can be classed as permitted development.

We have from time to time responded to applications for high fences. Generally the rule is that garden fences and walls should not be over 1m high when built along a main highway.

We recently saw a case in *Harlow Terrace* which is a cul-de-sac but within the conservation area.

The applicant tried to plead ignorance of the regulations. We thought that it was unfortunate that a hedge of probably 2m had been cut down, which would have given them the privacy that was desired, in order to build the fence! The application was refused, even though the fence had already been erected.

Number 4 Victoria Avenue is currently used as offices but an application came forward to change the use to a hotel and restaurant. We would prefer it to remain as offices and not spread restaurant use into Victoria Avenue, but I do not think there will be an objection from the planners on this point. What we did think would be supportable objections concerned the design of the replacement extension on the right hand side, the fenestration and the disabled ramp etc. It is pleasing that the planning department were of similar mind, except for the ramp. Amended drawings for the extension and fenestration were submitted which are hugely improved. The ridge and eaves of the extension now match the original building, and window heads match the distinctive hooded design of the original. In fact, several existing lintels can be re-used when they have been removed to construct the extension. Well Done! They are following the conservation officer's advice!

**Henry Pankhurst
Chairman**





Members are reminded that as Harrogate Civic Society is affiliated to Civic Voice, you are entitled to day passes giving free access to any National Trust or English Heritage property subject to a small number of restrictions.

The free **National Trust** pass is available to download by using the following link:-

www.civicvoice.org.uk/nationaltrustcivicvoiceoffer

If you are already a member of the National Trust, the free pass is transferable and can be given to friends or family.

The free **English Heritage** pass can be used between 1st November, 2011 and 31st January, 2012, and is available to download using the following link:-

<http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/englishheritagepassoffer>

This pass is not transferable.

Where members do not have internet access, either or both passes can be obtained by post with a stamped, addressed envelope, sent to:-

Civic Voice,
Unit 101, 82 Wood Street,
The Tea Factory, Liverpool, L1 4DQ

Peter Brown
Treasurer and Membership Secretary



ENGLISH HERITAGE
Days out worth talking about.



National Trust Properties:
East Riddlesden Hall, Keighley
The Treasurer's House, York



English Heritage Properties:
Byland Abbey
Castle Howard



Harrogate Civic Society member

Rachel Grimmer, gives us even more to think about following David Winpenny's talk on Hackfall Woods

It is that time of year again, blustery showers and sudden high winds have carpeted the ground in golden rustling leaves, and the Civic Society talks have restarted.

I walked down the hill, there is a hint, a promise of that cold fresh air and those lovely clean blue skies and the low sun casting shadows over the soon to be frosty land that will crunch beneath our feet. This walk seems to have existed forever, connecting High and Low Harrogate and their lovely older buildings, cutting across the Stray towards the faded grandeur of The Old Swan, but here, the talk is in one of those rather intimate rooms at Grant's Hotel and we are a select group this evening.

David Winpenny, Chairman of The Ripon Civic Society, who writes, among other things, books on suggested walks in different parts of the country, gave us a really interesting talk on Hackfall Woods; complete with the fascinating history of its production, there is an element of the theatrical about it, its decline, and finally its rescue.



The talk was illustrated with a mixture of atmospheric photographs and, I was relieved to be reassured, the perfect harmony and balance of a landscape painted by Poussin, followed with a painting by Claude Lorraine, both of whom were artists whose work influenced many landscape painters.

The gentleman sitting in front of me was clearly very knowledgeable in a reliable and all encompassing way, rather than in odd flashes, and so he answered questions and I remained in the safety of silence as the talk continued.

The history of Yorkshire has its share of Chancellors of the Exchequer and John Aislable, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1718 to 1721, had inherited the Studley estate from his mother's family in 1693. He started serious development of the garden in around 1716, becoming the first in England to introduce natural landscaping, and creating the beautiful landscaped gardens at Studley Royal. John Aislable also bought Hackfall Wood for £906 in 1731, although it was his son William Aislable who was able to add the ruins of Fountains Abbey to the estate, continuing the garden by developing its broad sweeping open views and the long water with its little formal bridge. William Aislable also created the dramatically romantic fantasy of lost pathways and ruined castles and bowers, grottos that Boswell said were 'for deep thoughts or slugs', out of the part of steeply wooded ravine of the Ure, known as Hackfall Wood, that his father bought. William Aislable had met Robert Adam at Newby Hall where he saw his Italian drawings of Capriccios and decided that they would be perfect for his idea for Hackfall Wood, he would also have been familiar with the work of William Kent, the protégée of Lord Burlington, of whom Horace Walpole had written that he 'leaped the fence and saw that all nature was a garden'.

I went to investigate, and although there were one or two cars in the car park, on a Tuesday, it seemed that for a good two hours I had the entire place to myself.

I had to resist the temptation to sing out 'Let us with a gladsome mind' or 'Climb every mountain'. Vistas occur as if by nature's command until you are surprised by a glassy pool with a waterfall cascading down the rocks behind it, and all of a sudden, a most unnatural fountain rises before you, a slender column of water tumbling down itself from the top, surely Pan will appear or shepherds and maids will frolic. 'Merrily merrily shall I sing now, under the blossom that hangs on the bough'. But in reality, for winemakers, there are Elderberries a plenty. Arcadia has here been redesigned. Just as in the 1633 painting by Claude Lorrain, *The Judgement of Paris with the ruined Temple of Sibyl at Tivoli*, currently at the Ashmolean in Oxford.

*Buildings, the proper points of view adorn
Of Grecian, Roman and Egyptian form
Interspersed with woods and verdant plains
Such as Possessed of Old Th'Arcadian Swains*

Wilderness, but only up to a point; the celebrated William Kent obliterated boundaries between garden and nature, (see *Simon Schama's Landscape and Memory*), but walking through Hackfall Wood emphasizes the point, even more than the beautiful and more serene walk at Fountains Abbey, that time always passes and ruin, decay and death are an inevitable consequence of life. Even in arcadia, death confronts us and in a variety of possible guises, as '*Landscape with a man killed by a snake*' by Nicolas Poussin makes dramatically clear, harmonious nature looks on as in some small part beauty and calm are shattered.

Neither of these paintings conveys the dramatic force of coming across a sudden drop down a cliff face semi hidden by the trees and bushes that cling to the sides of Hackfall. These chance encounters bring the paintings of the sublime by Caspar David Friedrich (1774 to 1840) to mind, and you can look down from a great height at the top of the waterfall down onto the fountain below with nothing coming between you and the fall, the drama here has real danger behind it.

It is no wonder then that Hackfall Wood became a favourite part of The Grand Tour of Europe as wealthy young men continued their travels around Britain. The Romantics found the extreme contrast to Studley Royal invigorating; it might have been the perfect inspiration for a Gothic novel.

William Wordsworth recommended a visit, Thomas Bewick sketched and William Turner did several paintings here, there was even a dinner service known as the *Green Frog Dinner Service* with scenes of Hackfall Wood on several of the pieces, made to the order of Empress Catherine the Great of Russia.



Although Hackfall Wood had been so much appreciated, in the 19th century it became neglected. It was not until Mr. James Ramsden set up The Hackfall Trust in 1988 that efforts were made to renew the splendour of the 'landscape garden' for which it was justly famous.

The Wood of 115 acres is now owned by The Woodland Trust and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The fantasy architecture and faux ruins known as the Rustic Temple, Fisher's Hall, Mowbray Point, The Grotto and Mowbray Castle have all been restored to their former glory and given Grade II listing.

Portraits of John and William Aislabie are in Ripon Town Hall or can be viewed on the fascinating Public Catalogue Foundation website.

I hope I have conveyed that the talk was full of information to send you on your own trail both in researching further to find out more and indeed, walking through the woods and discovering their magic for yourselves.

**Rachel Grimmer
HCS Member**

Knabs Ridge Wind Farm

11th November, 2008 - Official Opening



Whether you love them or hate them from an aesthetic point of view, there are many false myths about wind turbines. We would like to correct one which we believe was inadvertently included in the August newsletter, which stated: *“The wind farm at Knabs Ridge on the Skipton Road has eight turbines, but frequently several of them are not turning. If there is wind enough to turn one of them, why not all?”*

We used to think those not working must all have maintenance issues and asked the operators about this. They advised that the operation of the turbines is computer controlled for optimisation of energy production, depending on wind conditions. So if only one or a few of the eight turbines are turning it's because of the wind direction and/or speed, not because something is wrong. Ideally, we understand, they should have been somewhat further apart for maximum efficiency but the limited area of land available for the wind farm prevented this.

**Gia and Malcolm Margolis
HCS Members**



Pinewoods Conservation Group



Many HCS members may already have seen this letter from the secretary of the Pinewoods Conservation Group. For those who have not, an extract is reproduced below to keep you informed of further developments.

“As I am sure you are aware Harlow Carr have obtained planning permission for their North side car park.

Included in this planning permission, is permission to put a path through the Pinewoods to link the North car park with the entrance to the gardens, rather than the visitors having to walk along the road.

Harlow Carr had a meeting with us recently, in which they announced that they have additionally requested that the council lease to them an area of the Pinewoods from Crag Lane up to the point which is level with the top of the North car park (i.e. just short of Pinewood Farm). This request covers the full width of the woods. Harlow Carr have stated the following reasons for wanting to lease this land (extract copied straight from their email);

1 *‘Once we have developed our new car park to the north of the pinewoods we feel it will be essential to ensure that the section of the pinewoods between the north and south car parks is as enticing as possible, in order to encourage visitors along the pathway through the pinewoods, and to discourage them from walking along Crag Lane. If the RHS were to have responsibility for maintaining this area we would be able to ensure that pathways were kept tidy and safe, interpretation and signage engaging, and ensure that the area was kept litter free, therefore making the walk from the car park the same high quality experience as within the garden. Without ultimate responsibility for this area, we would not be in a position to be able to maintain it to the degree we would require.*

2 *In order to enable us to use this area of the pinewoods as effectively as possible, it is essential that the drainage within this area is well managed. We know that the area can often become extremely boggy due to a lack of sufficient drainage, and we would need to invest money and resource into resolving this issue, both for the benefit of our visitors and, we hope, for the benefit of general visitors to the woods. Again, without responsibility for the area we would not be at liberty to implement the appropriate water management solutions on land that was not our own.*

3 *Thirdly, if the RHS had responsibility for the pinewoods, we would be able to quickly and efficiently deal with any health and safety matters within this area. So, for example, should there be any wind damage to trees adjacent to the path, we would be able to react to the problem immediately, rather than having to rely on the Council, who may have different priorities, to manage the situation for us.*

4 *Finally, we very much feel the close link between the RHS’s vision, and Harrogate Borough Council’s aspirations to continue to improve and develop this area in a sensitive and respectful way, make this proposal highly appealing to both parties.’ “*

Members of the Pinewoods Conservation Group were asked for their views by 3rd November and for any specific wording to be included in the lease. No doubt there will be comment in the local press as to the outcome.

Harrogate Civic Society Final event of 2011

Plaque Unveiling on Tuesday, 6th December at 10.20 a.m.

Members are invited to attend the unveiling of a plaque recording the former Spa Rooms and Gardens on the site now occupied by Exhibition Hall 'M'.

Please assemble inside the glass foyer, behind the row of pillars, at 10.20 a.m. on Tuesday, 6th December, to await the arrival of Councillor Mackenzie who, as Leader of the Council, will perform the ceremony.

We shall then adjourn to the Heritage Room of the neighbouring Royal Hall for a talk by Malcolm Neesam about the Spa Rooms followed by coffee.

Members wishing to attend need to ring in advance HCS committee member Peter Hacker on 01423 567968 or email hollins4@uwclub.net

2012 Programme of Events

Monday, 20th February at 7.30 p.m.

Venue to be announced in the next Newsletter

Fade to Black—Reflections on a Career in Broadcasting
by
Geoff Druett, Yorkshire TV Broadcasting Personality

Spring Lecture

Details to be announced in the February Newsletter

The History of Gayle Mill, Upper Wensleydale

Built in 1784 to 85 as a cotton spinning mill but evolving in turn to be a sawmill, joinery business and early pioneering electricity generator, the Mill came third in the national finals of the BBC Restoration Series. The Victorian machinery has been restored to full working order with water powered turbines. Gayle Mill is now fully restored and operating as an historic visitor attraction.

