

HARROGATE CIVIC SOCIETY

August 2011

Chairman's Report

Soon after the publishing of the May Newsletter, we had our AGM. Now that I am officially elected, I can properly write a Chairman's Report!

We were very pleased to have Editor of the Harrogate Advertiser, Jean McQuarrie, to talk to us at the AGM. It was a relaxed affair - more in the nature of a dialogue. She spoke before the business part of the meeting at her request, because she was meeting the first through train from London for many years, at about half past eight.

I was extremely sorry to have to tell the meeting that Mike Burke, our very long-standing committee member and also a committee member of the Yorkshire & Humber Association of Civic Societies, was gravely ill. It was a sudden and short illness resulting in Mike's death at the end of May. Mike had a Thanksgiving Service on 6th June at St. John's Church, Bilton. The church was packed with his family, friends and associates from all facets of his life and interests, including Civic Society members. His wife, Katie, generously invited everyone to the Cedar Court Hotel afterwards. In view of Mike's long service to our society, we offered Katie Honorary Lifetime Membership and I am pleased to say that she has accepted.

We had fair weather and a good attendance for the dedication on Victoria Avenue of five oak trees to the memory of Ian Brown on 11th June. If any new members are reading this, Ian was another long-standing and hard working committee member who died in July last year. His widow, Elizabeth, is also a Lifetime Honorary Member and we are pleased that she has since attended several of our events. A detailed report of the event

by Jacky Little is included later in this newsletter. We also have a report by Stella Pilling of another well attended occasion - our tour of Ripon Cathedral, which was guided by Reverend Derek Ching.

We were treated to a talk at the Mercer Gallery on 15th July about the artist Atkinson Grimshaw and his paintings. It was given by the museum's own curator, Jane Sellars, who has edited and partly written a handsome book on the artist. If you were not present for our tour, I would urge you to go and see the exhibition. Atkinson Grimshaw was a remarkable artist and his work is much sought after.

In the May Newsletter I noted the NYCC Highways proposal for re-routing southbound A61 traffic via Cheltenham Mount and East Parade. This scheme was almost universally condemned. Since then, the Lateral Property Group has come up with an alternative proposal, but this time for re-routing northbound A61 traffic down Montpelier Hill and along Crescent Road. This is part of their 'Alternative Vision for Harrogate'. Once again, almost universal condemnation was the response. You may have seen my letter in the Harrogate Advertiser of 15th July. The society was invited to a preview of the scheme on 12th May and Granville Simpson and I attended.

Ripon Civic Society invited me to take part in the judging of their architectural awards. This is an annual event, but this year had been expanded. Until recently, their constitution restricted their interests to the Ripon conservation area, but this has been changed and they were able to consider

entries from outside the conservation area, including surrounding villages. Presentation of the awards is in October - always an enjoyable evening!

You will see an article from Peter Hacker about Heritage Open Days. It has proved quite a task to get these events organised this year. They are generally very well attended and I trust that you will all go to as many as you can! Details of other programme items are included.

Thank you to all contributors and organisers of this newsletter.

I wish you all a good Summer

**Henry Pankhurst
Chairman**

Planning Matters!

Since the May Newsletter we have studied 66 planning applications and felt the need to respond to 24 of them.

SIGNS, SHOPFRONTS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

We so often find reasons why signs, and advertisements especially, should be refused permission or modified. Shopfront applications are frequent offenders too. The Carphone Warehouse at *6 Cambridge Street* did not get permission for the large areas of deep blue paint on the shopfront. The planning officer's conclusion was the same as our own, that painting the area between the fascia signage and the first floor windows was visually incongruous and a dominant feature, the effect being to harm the character and appearance of the conservation area. Refusal was also the outcome of a sign on the grass verge at *East Park House on Otley Road*. As noted in the May newsletter, the other sign in the application - a set of letters on a building, was unobjectionable and this part of the application was approved. The free standing sign was considered to add clutter to the street scene and detrimental to the visual amenity of the locality by the Council.

You may remember that Sainsbury's wanted to turn the *Mile Post Public House* into a small supermarket. This application was withdrawn, but the advertisement application remained. In case they came back with a revised proposal, we thought that we had better respond to the advertisement application. Because of this anomaly the refusal notice said '*The proposed internally illuminated fascia sign cannot reasonably be considered as the single storey extension on which it is to be displayed is not extant, does not benefit from any planning permission, nor is there a current application pending consideration for such development. The display of the internally illuminated sign facing Mount Street would detract from the essentially residential character of the area and the proposed totem sign, due to its size and position, would represent an intrusive feature that would detrimentally affect the visual quality of the area.*' As you can see, even if the supermarket application was going ahead, there were still reasons to refuse the signage!

Another totem sign - beloved of car showrooms and garages - was refused permission at *Nidd Vale Motors on Leeds Road*. The two fascia signs were approved. This split decision was the outcome that we had hoped for.

Way back in December 2010, there was an application for signage at *Oakdale Service Station on Ripon Road*. The application was part approved and part refused. The signs that were refused were a double sign on a single pole for Texaco and the Co-op and 4 'spreader panels'. I cannot explain this term, but they are quite substantial, internally illuminated signs on the petrol pumps. Even though refused permission, they were erected and now there is a retrospective application for them! No doubt - logically - the Council will have to refuse them again - then what?

An application for 44 Parliament Street included a new shopfront and a change of use from retail to restaurant.

We were content with the alterations to the shopfront, but are worried about too many changes of use to restaurants and bars. Excessive dilution of town centre retail will be counter-productive to the vitality and viability of our shopping centres. The application has been approved.

Another such case is at 3A John Street. Here though, the situation was worse because the shopfront changes were not acceptable to us. The proposal was to have a shopfront consisting of folding doors, so that it could be opened to the street. The change of use was to a wine bar - have we not got enough drinking establishments already? Surely there is scope for the re-use of a small shop in an attractive shopping centre like Harrogate. There have been quite a few objections to the application and the case is still on-going. Both elements of the application were unacceptable in our view. Some of the signs proposed recently for the *HSBC Bank on Prospect Crescent* were, we believed, too large or too numerous. The two fascia signs would be more modest than the existing and the two projecting signs are acceptable. Several small signs on or around the doors would also be fine. They wish to have an external paying-in machine and the sign above it is too large, as are the signs proposed above the two existing external ATMs. A 'Welcome' sign of large dimensions stuck to a window and another welcome sign over the doors are simply advertisement clutter.

LARGER HOUSING SITES

I have nothing new to report under this heading - the first time ever! Two applications are at present stuck in the pipeline - *Spacey Houses Farm* and the *Yorkshire Water sites on Harlow Moor Road and Cornwall Road*. I will let you have news when there is some movement. You may be aware that we shall soon be faced with the final decisions on land allocation for future housing that will go into the Local Development Framework. I do hope that many of you will respond to the consultation in September.

SMALLER HOUSING SITES

I noted last time that conversion work on two garages at *4A Chatsworth Place* to make them into two small flats had already begun. Planning permission was not forthcoming. The Council's reasons for refusal were similar to our own objections - namely those of over-intensification, parking problems and a poor level of amenity for occupiers. The moral for all applicants should be 'don't count your chickens...' They have just wasted time, effort and money on something that is not going to happen!

Once again an application to provide four flats at the *Bilton Working Mens Club on Skipton Road* has been withdrawn. In the May Newsletter, I was wondering if enough improvement had been made to satisfy the planners, but it seems not. The application was not very well presented, there being discrepancies and contradictions between documents and drawings. The description of the works did not accord with documents and drawings either. Two dormer windows at the rear remained in the description, but are no longer on the drawings. The rather scanty Planning Statement still mentioned 12 roof lights, but the drawings showed fewer - 10 I think. There was an important omission from the drawings. An original chimney stack on the main front roof slope was not shown on the drawings. Chimney stacks and pots are important features of buildings of this age and I would not like to think a developer could argue that, if a consent were given on the strength of the drawing, the stack could be taken down!

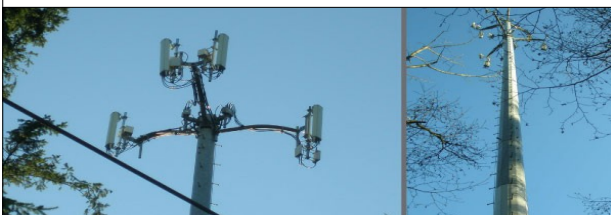


I will not bore you with one or two other shortcomings in the paperwork. I believe that the planning officers are not satisfied with the standard of amenity offered to occupiers of the flats because of the club use of the ground floor and part of the first floor. The application has been withdrawn for a second time.

We received consultation plans for 3-4 Prospect Crescent. The Britannia Building Society is on the ground floor and the application is to create a total of five apartments on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors. We are pleased to see such upper floors brought back into full use. The more conversions we can have like this, the less new land is required for housing. There must be many similar opportunities around the town. Although the interiors would be treated carefully and original features preserved and repaired, we were a little disappointed that the intention was to conceal cornices with false ceilings. This sort of detail could surely be an attraction to future occupants.

There are several coach-houses on Harlow Moor Drive that have been successfully converted to dwellings. A recent application for 7 Harlow Moor Drive was just such a proposal. In general, this was acceptable. However, a parking space was proposed. We had two reasons for objecting to this - the first reason was that it would mean the loss of a car parking opportunity on the back road, and secondly that the original boundary wall would have to be demolished. Making more and more areas at the back of terraces 'open plan' degrades the conservation area. We consider that original boundary walls are part of the character of the conservation area. The application has been approved, but with a condition that the area shown on the plans as a parking space shall be used as garden or amenity space with no off-street parking. A note was added to the decision notice to say that any demolition or re-building would render the permission inoperable. That seems pretty clear and decisive! Thank you to the planning officers. Here then is one more new dwelling that will not occupy greenfield land.

I am now creating a new category -



Things on Tall Poles,
or

WIND TURBINES & TELECOM MONOPOLES

There has been a spate of monopoles with mobile phone antennae attached, accompanied by the usual green equipment cabinets. We have felt moved to respond to six such applications recently. I wrote about three of them in the May Newsletter - one outside 52 Cold Bath Road, one outside St.Aidan's School and one outside 40 Crab Lane. All of these were refused permission. The three newer ones are - in front of 105 Pannal Ash Road which is not in the conservation area, east of 34c Leeds Road which is outside the Posh Paws pet supplies shop, and on Duchy Road outside Hampden House nursing home. 34c Leeds Road is in the conservation area and also close to two listed buildings, one being St. Mark's Church across the road and the other being 36-38 Leeds Road. Duchy Road is, of course, in the conservation area. I am pleased to say that all three of these newer applications have been refused. There were various reasons for rejection including the visual effect on the street scene and the conservation area, adverse effect on the setting of listed buildings, obstruction of the footway, overbearing to dwellings etc.

Several wind turbines have been proposed recently and, although they were not in the town, they couldn't be really as turbines do not work well near buildings and trees, we felt we should comment because they have a commanding visual presence in the countryside, which we all hope to enjoy without obtrusive constructions.

When I say that wind turbines do not work well near to obstructions, some say that they are not very efficient anyway, but nevertheless expensive to erect! The wind farm at Knabbs 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?

The last newsletter noted a wind turbine at Hill Top Lane, Pannal . It was refused permission, but a second application came forward soon afterwards. We have re-

sponded again because of visual intrusion and footpaths nearby. A wind turbine in a very prominent position near Brimham Rocks at *Springfield Farm, Fellbeck* has been refused because of an adverse visual impact and detriment to the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Two more turbines are proposed to be sited in the AONB quite close to each other. One is at *Stean Beck Farm, Stean*, and the other at *Whitbeck Farm, Lofthouse*. Both would be seen as very prominent from the higher ground at Middlesmoor.



We anticipate that these two will be refused. Unfortunately, if turbines are considered singly, they may not be too destructive of the character of our best countryside, but as you can imagine, there is a danger of them being dotted all over. All of the above turbines were proposed on 15m high masts, which is almost 50 feet. Remember that the total height will be much greater when the rotors are taken into consideration. An application allied to wind turbines is a proposal for two temporary anemometer masts in *a field at Felliscliffe*. Permission has been given for a period of three years following erection. The masts are very slim and supported by guy ropes, but, believe it or not, they are 50m (or 164 feet) tall. The site is south of *Penny Pot Lane, the Haverah Park* area, which is so popular with walkers.

OTHER APPLICATIONS

The application that featured in the last newsletter to extend and convert the *Mile Post Pub* into a convenience store was withdrawn, but as I expected that was not the end of the story. A new application was vali-

dated on 27th June. It is much the same, but with an improved design for the extension to the left (as seen from Leeds Road). We have written in similar terms as previously. The better integrated extension and possibly a better arrangement for the refrigeration plant (although the drawings were not clear on this point) do not and could not answer our objections. The loss of the Pub in an area which has no competition, but does have a good local shopping centre, and the traffic problems caused by extra vehicular activity including deliveries and parking, plus possible hazards for pedestrians, lead to our conclusion that the proposal is unacceptable.

At the time of writing, I have not seen a decision on the additional car **parking for Harlow Carr Gardens**. We did see yet another application for the site though. It was for an extension to the lake and for a new lake. We were curious as to the purpose. These works are in fact for drainage. It seems that water would run off into the lakes to provide 'sustainable drainage'.

The other application that we were expecting for an extension to the *Spa Water Bottling site* came in (I wrote about the proposed Electricity Substation in the May Newsletter). We did not object to an extension in principle, but that which is proposed is very, very large and combined with the substation would be too intensive overall use of the site. We ask the question - has the bottling plant outgrown the site? The extension would not be for production only but for storage and loading. Perhaps some storage should be on another site. The new buildings would be impossible to landscape and screen to any useful degree considering that permission was given for the bottling plant as an exception to Special Landscape Area policy because the actual extraction could not occur anywhere else. We are also concerned that Spa Water had persuaded CE Electric in their substation application to provide additional drainage and landscaping. Suppose the substation was not built on the site, then the bottling plant extensions (if built) may lack these items. It is essential that details of landscaping and drainage are properly dealt with under each separate application.

The National Milk Records Office on Skipton Road have applied for complete demolition of the buildings and to replace them with a 104 bed care home. The application was just about to go to committee, but was withdrawn. There was a weighty recommendation for refusal by the planning officers. The reasons for refusal were many and lengthy. I will just note a few salient points. There would be a loss of employment premises. Harm would be caused to the character and spatial quality of the area and the nearby conservation area (which nearly surrounds it). Excessive plot coverage, scale and massing, loss of trees, lack of landscaping and harm to the setting of listed buildings - Grove House (Grade II*) and the former Grove House Stables (Grade II) are also cited. Harm to the amenity of nearby residents, due to overbearing, overshadowing and loss of existing landscaping, would result - etc. etc. No doubt the applicant could see that it was a lost cause.

Two important applications have come in for Harrogate Hospital. There is a proposal to put a deck over the car park. It would be an open deck with wooden railings around it so would not be too high. We did not think that there would be too much impact on residential amenity for those living on Lancaster Park Road. We are concerned about the traffic flow within the car park as there looked to be a conflict between cars arriving and those leaving. It was disappointing that the current car parking spaces amount to 375 but this would only increase to 376 if the deck is constructed. The reason is that, along with this proposal, there is an application for a new oncology centre that would be built largely on parking areas between Wetherby Road and Willaston Crescent. One pair of semi-detached houses on Wetherby Road that are used as offices would be demolished. They would be no great loss to the street scene. The design is very modern and quite different from the current hospital architecture. The oncology centre would be constructed as two buildings linked together. It should look quite striking and it is probably good that it will contrast with what is now a very large concentration of building on the site.

Only infrequently do we comment on comparatively small domestic extensions. We did, however, feel moved to send representation on **extensions at 3 Hollins Crescent.** The property

is a modest bungalow on a sloping site. There were two parts to the proposal - to the right the garage was to be demolished and an extension built which would have been larger than the garage. To the left an oddly shaped replacement garage was proposed. The extension filled the site to the side boundaries and left a small triangular garden to the rear - the site narrows severely from front to rear, as well as sloping steeply to the rear. The new extension had an unacceptable impact on neighbours due to overlooking, overbearing and overshadowing, due in part to the slope of the land. A line of trees exists on the left hand boundary, which would not have survived the building of the new garage, but the planners did not seem as concerned about them as we were. Perhaps you have guessed that the application was refused, although no mention was made of the trees, but otherwise for all the right reasons.

Trees were the subject of an application at 11 Ripon Road. Because it is within the conservation area, notice has to be given of any intention to fell trees or do other works to them and the Council then have six weeks to make a decision. A large number of trees are involved, but many of them apparently already have permission to be felled. We often find it disappointing to hear of the loss of trees.



The application is connected to plans to convert the house (which is offices at present) into four apartments and build a

block of nine apartments at the rear. We have not seen the application yet, but the architect was thoughtful enough to send us plans prior to the application going in. No doubt more of that next time!

Just one last case that I will mention. There are more I could write about but time and space are limited. We are very pleased to hear of a **Georgian property at 20 Park Parade** that is to undergo extensive and no doubt expensive internal renovation. After many years (probably more than a century) of inappropriate treatment, there is an application to repair and refurbish it in the style of a Georgian residence as far as is practicable.



Fig. 31. 'Ralph Allen's Town House'. The garden front.

An application is necessary because, along with the rest of Park Parade, it is a listed building. We wish the owner every success!

Henry Pankhurst
August, 2011

Can you visualise.. ..



.. **the 800 year old oak tree** on Victoria Avenue that sadly had to be removed recently? It was more or less on the north east corner, opposite Queen Parade.

As another reminder, there was a commemorative plaque affixed to the tree, placed by our predecessors, The Harrogate Society.

That's the scenario—here's the mystery

The plaque has vanished!



Now we are not suggesting that someone has a new ornament on their mantelpiece but it is just possible that you may have seen it somewhere, or heard of its whereabouts.

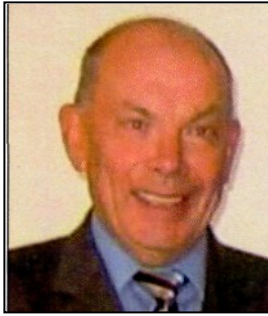
.. .. Help needed

Any information that might lead to the plaque's recovery would be appreciated as we would dearly like to preserve it since we cannot preserve the tree.

So, if you do know anything, please ring on:

01423 504079 or email:
civicsociety.info@btinternet.com

Peter Brown
Treasurer and Membership Secretary



Mike Burke
An appreciation,
By Malcolm Neesam

I first met Mike in about 1992, when he was introduced to the old Harrogate Society through the good offices of chairman Peter Barnwell, a near neighbour of Mike and his wife Katie. It was clear from the first that he was a sociable man who took a lively interest in his surroundings, especially the environment and society in which he lived. This led to his co-operating in many ventures for the improvement of Knox, Bilton and Harrogate. His interest, however, was not parochial, as he put in many hours of voluntary work for the Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies, and was keenly interested in the umbrella role of the Civic Trust. Indeed, when the old Harrogate Society reformed itself as the Harrogate Civic Society, Mike Burke was one of the key players in ensuring that it did so as a Civic Trust member.

Mike's love for Yorkshire showed itself when he visited such places as Leeds, Hull and Wakefield, when with relish he would show visitors interesting sites that might otherwise be missed.

As a kindly and patient man, Mike made an excellent committee member, and there were few occasions when his endearing sense of humour failed to lighten tense or awkward moments. He was usually the key player in the Civic Society's open days, when various buildings throughout the town were opened to public inspection, such as the Harrogate Club, or Grove House. This entailed an enormous amount of preparatory work, which Mike did without a grumble.

We often talked about local history, and I valued his expertise on the subject of Ashville, and felt very privileged when he consulted me about his fine book on the College, which is the standard text on the subject. Ashville has lost one of its greatest friends and certainly its finest archivist and historian.

An obituary
By Peter Cooper
Former President of YHACS

We are saddened to report that YHACS committee member Mike Burke has died after a short illness.

Mike was a founder member of the association, attending the inaugural meeting in 1999 and becoming Vice-Chairman.

Civic Societies were well represented at a Service of Thanksgiving for Mike's life held at St John's Church, Harrogate on 6th June; the large church was full, which I am sure was a reflection of Mike's wide breadth of activities and the esteem in which he was held.

Mike was a reliable attendee at YHACS events and committee meetings, where the hard work was done, and always made a contribution. He proposed the principle of a Civic Societies Week, which has been such a success in our region and has been adopted by the national body. He was always keen that we improved the quality of what we did, whether it was in the standard of meeting venues or the quality of printed materials. He felt strongly that our events should have a sense of occasion and made sure that Civic leaders were invited and properly hosted. Mike always 'did the Mayor' In my ten years as chairman Mike was a great help and a positive force; he hated negativity. He and his wife Katie became my good friends, and he will be greatly missed.

**Harrogate and District
Heritage Open Days
Thursday to Sunday
8th to 11th September, 2011**



Shortly after I joined the committee two years ago, I was approached by my colleague, the late and much lamented Mike Burke, who asked if I would assist him with the annual organisation of Harrogate District 'hods'. My initial response was somewhat diffident, as I had never previously heard this acronym, and envisaged some sort of coal carrying competition! However, in the past two years I have managed to introduce a few new local participants, including the main town churches and tours of our theatre.

By way of brief background information for the uninitiated, 'hods' celebrate England's architecture and culture by allowing visitors free access to interesting properties that are either not usually open or would normally charge an entrance fee. Established in 1994, 'hods' are England's contribution to European Heritage Days, and are at present co-ordinated by English Heritage. Last year, 'hods' attracted around one million visitors to events organised almost exclusively by volunteers.

This year, we are again fortunate in having the co-operation of Harrogate Museums and Arts section of our Council in co-ordinating local events throughout the Harrogate district, and in preparing an events booklet, which will be available from tourist offices and libraries towards the end of August. These details will also appear, somewhat earlier, on the society's website: www.harrogatecivicsociety.org.

In order to tempt members to attend at least one event, this year our splendidly restored theatre will again be offering complete guided tours at 1.00 p.m., 2.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. on the Thursday and Friday. For the more ener-

getic, Harlow Observation Tower will be accessible on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., but with 100 steep steps to the roof, this is not for the infirm or elderly. Thanks to the initiative of our member Stella Pilling, St. Andrew's Police Treatment Centre on Harlow Moor Road will be open to visitors on the Saturday and Sunday also from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Also, the Hotel Majestic is offering a guided tour of its premises, restored since the recent fire, on the Friday afternoon at 2.00 p.m. But please, as numbers are limited, book in advance: telephone 01423 700325.

Finally, keep a look out for events in the Ripon, Nidderdale and Knaresborough sections of the booklet and on our website list-



ing. Our Chairman and his wife visited Hackfall woods and follies, Grewelthorpe, last year, and was captivated by the restored 18th century waterfalls and surprise vistas.

Hackfall will be open on the Sunday from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., and later in September, we have engaged a local speaker to tell us about its restoration.

**Peter Hacker
Committee Member**



Further to the article in the November, 2010, newsletter regarding the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room in Valley Gardens, this building will be open to view on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon until 4.00 p.m. To arrange a group visit in advance, please telephone 01423 505231 or email jane_blayney@btintnet.com

Tree Planting for Ian

Saturday 11th June was a rare day. After weeks of appalling weather the sun shone! It didn't rain, the wind was no more than a gentle breeze, and mid-morning about thirty-five members and friends of the Civic Society gathered outside the Library on Victoria Avenue to honour Ian Brown, who died last year. Elizabeth Brown was there with her family, including her and Ian's young grandchildren, and most of us arrived carrying umbrellas, fearing the worst!

Five oak trees had been planted in Victoria Avenue, in verges, some where old trees had been lost and not replaced. The cost had been met by Elizabeth's gift, to the society, of donations made at the thanksgiving service for Ian's life on 11th August last year. And on that morning in June we were meeting to commemorate Ian's very many years of invaluable work and support for the society as a member of the committee.

The Deputy Mayor of Harrogate, Cllr Pat Jones, arrived just before eleven and was greeted by Henry Pankhurst, newly elected as Chairman of the society, and the Brown family. In warm sunshine, we strolled together along Victoria Avenue, stopping by each of the new oak trees while Paul Casey, Harrogate Borough Council's arboriculturist, talked trees, Harrogate's trees. It was so interesting – you wouldn't believe the time and money and extreme forward planning that goes into keeping our town centre's trees in the glorious condition many of us take for granted.

One of the young oaks (the one in the photograph below) is planted in a verge outside The Harrogate Club on Victoria Avenue and we all stood around it for the formal commemoration of the trees to Ian by the Deputy Mayor. She concluded by reading, *'Our Debt to the Forest'*, an anonymous, little-known poem in praise of trees (unearthed by Chris and Stuart Holland), before we all went into The Harrogate Club for coffee and cakes.

Once refreshed, Malcolm Neesam treated us to a brief but most delightful talk on the making of

Victoria Avenue – very largely the result of one man's inspired vision of a long straight avenue of beautiful houses and broad-leaved trees running from Queen Parade to West Park. It must once have been absolutely magnificent and is still one of Harrogate's finest streets. Paul Casey also gave us a fascinating talk about the many benefits of trees which he related to his work in the United States.

Time has eroded the grandeur of Victoria Avenue somewhat – not all the buildings are beautiful now, and some of the original trees are coming to the end – but Malcolm's talk underlined the importance of taking care of what we have now. After the two short talks Elizabeth was presented with a framed copy of the poem, *'Our Debt to the Forest'*.

And as we walked back along Victoria Avenue, still in balmy sunshine, it seemed very appropriate that our lovely morning with the Brown family had honoured the memory of Ian and his work for the society in a way that will contribute something for the benefit of future generations.



Footnote : This event will be recorded in 'Trees in Memoriam', a book of remembrance which is permanently displayed at the Pump Room Museum.

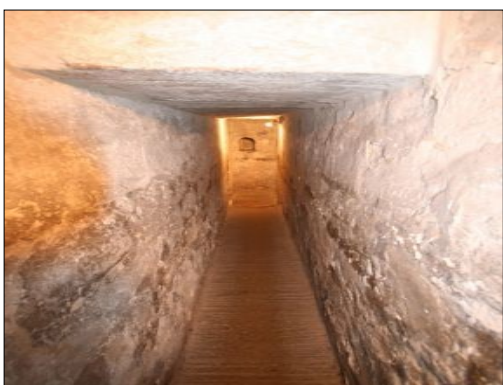
**Jacky Little
HCS Member**

A Guided tour of Ripon Cathedral 9th May, 2011

Seventeen Harrogate Civic Society members and their guests enjoyed a fascinating tour of Ripon Cathedral, ably shown round by the Reverend Derek Ching. We started by sitting inside, taking in the various styles of architecture, while Derek entertained us with various historical facts and anecdotes.

Ripon Cathedral was founded by St. Wilfrid who, in 672, brought craftsmen from the continent to build a new stone church dedicated to St. Peter.

We then moved outside to study the magnificent Early English west front, dating from the early 13th century, before moving back inside, where most of the group took the opportunity to visit the ancient Saxon crypt, the only part of Wilfrid's original church to have survived intact.



Derek told us that Wilfrid may have intended the crypt to represent Christ's tomb. In a large niche in the crypt, which probably once contained some saints' relics, brought back by Wilfrid from Rome, there is now a beautiful 14th century alabaster carving of the resurrection, which was found along with some others, under the Dean's seat in the choir stalls.

We also admired the choir stalls, completed in 1494 by Ripon woodcarvers, and were shown the various carved misericords, includ-

ing the one depicting a griffon, chasing a rabbit while another rabbit hides down his hole. This is believed to have inspired Lewis Carroll of Alice in Wonderland fame, whose father was a Canon at Ripon from 1852 to 1868.



There is a great deal to see in Ripon Cathedral and our tour passed far too soon. The Cathedral is open from 8.30 a.m. till 6.00 p.m. every day, and entrance is free although a donation is requested. It takes £800,000 each year just to run the Cathedral and there are in addition very large maintenance costs for the fabric.



Recent projects have included the complete rewiring of the Cathedral, while the Harrison and Harrison organ needs a clean and rebuild. The organ appeal has announced that they have received £50,000 from the Getty Trust.

**Stella Pilling
HCS Member**

Harrogate Civic Society

Programme of Events 2011

Heritage Open Days

Thursday 8th to Sunday, 11th September

Details of participating places and events throughout the country are available at
<http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory/>

Two talks focusing on the Aislabie's C18 landscapes in the Harrogate District

Wednesday, 14th September at 7.30

David Winpenny, Chairman of Ripon Civic Society,
will look at the history of the landscape of Hackfall, north west of Ripon,
its neglect in the 20th century and its rescue over the last 20 years

Venue: Grant's Hotel, Swan Road, Harrogate

Wednesday, 2nd November at 7.30 p.m.

Michael Bevington of the National Trust
"A Tour of the Aislabie's C18 Water Garden"
A talk about the Water Gardens at Studley Royal, Ripon

Venue: Grant's Hotel, Swan Road, Harrogate
Donation: £1.50 per head to the National Trust

"Winter Warmers at The Club"

Malcolm Neesam's 2011 Local History Lectures

To be resumed in the Autumn

We are delighted to report that Malcolm Neesam has announced his intention of resuming the series of lectures on local historical themes that he had to abandon last January because of ill-health. Following an operation at Leeds General Infirmary in April, Malcolm has recovered to the extent that he is hoping to deliver the last four titles of his lecture series in October and November of this year. The slide-illustrated lectures will be as follows:-

Sunday, 16th October: "At Bar and Board: the story of Harrogate's Hotels"

Sunday, 30th October: "Stage and Screen: the story of Entertainments in Harrogate"

Sunday, 13th November: "Health and Healing: Harrogate's Medical History"

Sunday, 27th November: "Trees and Flowers: the story of Harrogate's Parks and Gardens"

The lectures will all be held at The Club, 36 Victoria Avenue, beginning at 3.00 p.m.

Ticket Holders are asked to bring their tickets with them

Please direct any queries regarding your booking to The Club, telephone 01423 502344