

HARROGATE CIVIC SOCIETY

May 2011

Vice Chairman's Report

We have had very successful events since the last newsletter and several more are imminent. John Thorp, the Leeds Civic Architect, came to speak to us on March 8th and his talk was enjoyed by an encouraging number of members at Grant's Hotel. The dinner at Betty's, with Victor Wild telling the history of this great institution, on April 12th was regarded as extremely enjoyable by all. I think it must have been one of our best attended events ever!! Detailed reports of these two occasions are to be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

You will no doubt be aware of the North Yorkshire Highways Department's scheme to re-route traffic from the north of the town along Cheltenham Mount, Bower Road and East Parade, instead of using Station Parade. We sent an email to all members who have given us an email address, urging them to write to County Hall with their views. At that time, the deadline for responses was 19th April but as that has now been extended to 16th May, this newsletter should reach you in time to respond if you have not already done so. I am grateful to those of you who have sent us a copy of your letter.

In the February newsletter, Saturday 11th June was noted as a date for a special event. If you were at the Betty's dinner, you will have heard me describe it. The Council have recently planted ten new trees on Victoria Avenue. Five of these are oak trees which Civic Society has agreed to pay for in memory of our very long-standing committee member Ian Brown, who died last July. His widow Elizabeth generously allowed donations instead of flowers to be given to the Civic Society. On 11th June

there will be a ceremony when we will dedicate the trees to Ian's memory, which the Mayor will attend. If you would like to be there, it would make it easier for the arrangements if we know in advance.

I learnt some detail in advance of the new primary substation application from CE Electric at a meeting arranged by Rosemary Carnaghan of the Duchy Residents' Association. The new application would see the primary substation built in a corner of the Spa Water Bottling Plant site. If acceptable and successful in getting planning permission, the grave threat to St. Wilfrid's Church will be removed (see report under 'Other Applications'). The application to build it at the rear of St. Wilfrid's Church has not been withdrawn, so it is still there, suspended, until CE Electric decide to proceed with it or withdraw.

Our AGM is quite soon as you will know - it was advertised in the previous two newsletters. There are a few nominations for officers to be voted upon. I am being nominated for election as Chairman, Susan Amaku for election as Vice Chairman and Peter Brown for re-election as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Other committee members may remain on the committee for three years without the need for re-election, so as they were re-elected at the 2009 AGM, it is not necessary this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated and hardworking committee, and others, who have helped us, for all their work this past year and I am sure you would all echo my sentiments.

Henry Pankhurst
Vice Chairman

Planning Matters!

Since the last newsletter, we have looked at 77 applications, and sent responses regarding 33.

SIGNS, SHOPFRONTS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

The restaurant, that was *Pinocchio's*, now to become Cardaman Black, have submitted a revised application for signage. It is a more modest proposal with the large high level signs omitted, so we have not objected.

Two new applications came in for signs on the *Victoria Shopping Centre* replacing the withdrawn ones.



The proposed signs for the entrance on Cambridge Street were an improvement and we did not respond to the application. We did however object to the very large vertical banner type signs proposed for the Market Place entrance. There are, in fact, similar signs existing here, but we would prefer no such 'banners'. Who could miss the Victoria Centre without them?! The application has been approved. *Associated Tyres on Leeds Road* got permission for their advertisements but I am pleased to report that a condition was placed (as we had suggested) allowing the signs to be illuminated only during the opening hours of the garage - 07.30 to 18.30 Monday to Saturday. Near to *Associated Tyres on Leeds Road* is *Cragside Mercedes*. The application was for an internally illuminated free standing sign which would have created a line of three items - a tower sign, a floodlighting pole and the new sign. We objected to a proliferation of signs and the Council decision was to refuse, due to the cumulative impact of signs both at the 'Mercedes' site and the other businesses along this part of Leeds Road.

The garage is in a Special Landscape Area (The Crimple Valley) and in an ASCA (An Area of Special Control of Advertisements). This is a powerful piece of planning regulation that can be used to refuse many advertisements in the countryside around Harrogate. Between *Associated Tyres and Cragside Mercedes* is the newly re-built *Pannal Service Station*, which, of course, applied for new signage. For a petrol station it was a modest application! The proposal was approved with some small modifications. The *Carphone Warehouse at 6 Cambridge Street* has applied to repaint the shopfront and fascia in a very deep blue. Due to the excessive depth of the fascia, it will look heavy and obtrusive.

A care home at Cattal wanted two signs on grass verges - one on the *A59 at the crossroads with Station Road* and the other at *the junction of Station Road and Gilsthwaite Lane, Cattal*. The former was a large sign on two poles and the latter was smaller on one pole. We regarded them as inappropriate intrusions in the countryside, and, in the case of the one on the A59, as a hazard to traffic because of impaired visibility for drivers at the junction. Both were refused for similar reasons as in our objections. Another sign on a verge is proposed for *East Park House on Otley Road*. We regard it as a distraction for motorists. This sign was not on the description which just noted a set of internally illuminated letters which we did not object to. *Sainsbury's* are hoping to turn the *Mile Post Pub on Leeds Road* into a small supermarket (See under 'Other Applications'). Here again there was a large sign on the drawings that was not in the description. We found this fascia sign superfluous. A large free-standing sign was also unacceptable - a similar one was refused consent at the *Otley Road Co-op*. Car showrooms always like their 'totem' signs. We found one planned for *Nidd Vale Motors on Leeds Road* which we considered obtrusive, especially in addition to lots of other signs already present.

The *White Hart Hotel* wants to create a separate pub on the south end of the building, which I shall describe later in this newsletter.



We are very concerned that the simplicity of the exterior is not damaged by the addition of too many advertisements etc. The application was for two sets of non-illuminated letters, one externally illuminated projecting sign and three externally illuminated amenity boards. The application was passed, but I am pleased to say that the signs were reduced by the deletion of two of the large amenity boards and a reduction in size of the third one.

The shop at *19 Devonshire Place* used to be (like quite a few premises!) a post office. We are pleased to see that it is being brought back into use - as a fireplace shop. We did not like the proposed signs though. One was already in place, which is a board at first floor level over the door. There is in fact a narrow fascia on which advertisements could be placed. The other was a very large illuminated high level sign on the gable end (2.5m wide x 1.8m high actually). We were not content with either sign and the planners were also not content and the application has been refused.

The shop at 44-46 James Street is to have a new shopfront which looks good. Most of the Harrogate conservation area has an Article 4 Direction. This is planning speak for increased protection of buildings in a conservation area.

The particular protection in our case is that stone/brick walls should not be painted or, if they were painted prior to the Article 4 Direction, then re-painting will require permission if the colour is to change. The application for 44 - 46 James Street is to re-paint in a colour more akin to the natural stone, which could be an improvement. At present, it is what I would describe as battleship grey. We would be hopeful in preference that paint could be taken off if no significant further damage to the stonework were caused. My last case in this section is one of the worst. It is for *United Carpets and Beds on Ripon Road*. The proposal involves lots of signs that are mixed up with signs for the Nationwide Autocentre which produces a mass of signs with clashing colours. We have suggested that the two companies get together and sort out a coherent arrangement of advertisements that will not conflict and be of benefit to both.

LARGER HOUSING SITES

The two site application for housing on the Yorkshire Water land at Cornwall Road and Harlow Moor Road has still not gone to planning committee. The major sticking point is how the affordable housing element is to be provided. I believe I have described the possibilities and preferences in previous newsletters, so will leave the topic until there is something new to tell.



The applications for *90-96 Station Parade*, which used to be Carrington's Night Club and included 13 new flats has been approved. An element that we found unacceptable was the inclusion for one of the flats of a terrace overlooking the Rogers Square Almshouses. I am pleased to report that the plans were amended and there will be no terrace.

Spacey Houses Farm at Pannal is back in the planning news. Some time ago, an application was passed for housing on the site, which involved demolition of most of the buildings. This permission could not be implemented because shortly afterwards all the buildings of the farmstead were listed. These included the farmhouse and cottage, barns, cartsheds, slaughter house, stables, milking parlour etc. etc. - quite a complex of buildings. The recent application provides 13 dwellings comprising the Farm House, the Cottage, 3 new affordable dwellings, a pair of new build semis, and 6 more dwellings by conversion of most of the old farm buildings. Very little demolition is to take place - some modern open barns will go and part of a cow house at the entrance to Walton Place. This is the only significant element of the listing to be lost, but is necessary to provide slightly better access from Princess Royal Way. North Yorkshire Highways wanted more demolition because even the current plans provide only a short passing place. Officer opinion was that no more demolition than was shown on the initial plans should be allowed because of the value of the listed buildings. We regard the proposals as a very good and welcome re-use of the farmstead.

SMALLER HOUSING SITES

An infill house at 117 Pannal Ash Road that was recommended for approval by Council officers was, as noted previously, refused by the planning committee. The case went to appeal and the planning inspector allowed the appeal. The inspector was happy (unlike ourselves and the Councillors) with the scale and design etc.

I gave some detail in the last newsletter of an application to convert *10 Leeds Road* into four flats, where our concerns focused on the front garden and parking arrangements. The application has been approved but with some modifications. Two impractical car parking spaces were removed and a condition was placed that the front boundary hedge must be retained at, at least, 1.8m and if hedging plants die, they must be replaced. This will help to maintain the appearance of the conservation area.

Some other helpful conditions were attached also. We saw an application for a house in a garden at *5 Anchor Road* but did not in fact send representation to the Council. Anchor Road is off the Knaresborough Road and the house would not have been seen by many except residents local to the site. A previous application had been refused but they came back with a reduced proposal. This, though, was also refused because of a negative effect on immediate neighbours, having houses on all sides of the site and being built within high walls and fences.

We looked at an application to convert two garages that had a flat above at *4a Chatsworth Place*. Each garage was to become a small flat - I expect you can guess that that must mean very small! They call them 'crash pads'. It seemed very intensive use of the building in an already closely built area. Conversion work had already begun. One garage had an apparently well established non-garage frontage and the other one was in the process of conversion with stone walling and a personal door in place. We were not content that the site was suitable for two more dwellings. *The Bilton Working Men's Club on Skipton Road* had an application to convert the 1st and 2nd floors into 4 flats refused in July last year. They have now applied again. Some improvements have been made to the plans - for instance, there are no dormers indicated at the rear, and roof lights are reduced from 12 to 10, but it is not clear if they intend to use the conservation type, which would be necessary on this building in the conservation area. We shall have to see if they have done enough to satisfy the planners. I am still looking into this one. *Grant's Hotel on Swan Road*, which we all know well, would like to return the right-hand end of their premises to 2 terraced dwellings. From a planning point of view and treatment of the listed buildings, we cannot see a problem. BUT it will mean the loss of our usual meeting rooms if it goes through!

OTHER APPLICATIONS

We have of course now seen the revised application for car parking at 28 Victoria Avenue. It was no better than the first attempt and would have been damaging to the conservation area and offered poor access at a point very near the roundabout. The application was refused for more reasons than even I would have imagined. The reasons were under five headings, a negative impact on the character and visual appearance of the conservation area, increased reliance on the private car, lack of clear visibility along the public highway, lack of clear visibility along the footway and lack of a detailed arboricultural report and adverse impact on nearby trees.

Under the advertisements heading I wrote regarding an application for the White Hart Hotel that is to have the effect of providing a pub that can be operated separately from the rest of the hotel. The name for the bar is 'The Fat Badger'.



Such a name has no historic relevance to the town or the White Hart and, in my opinion, is as unwelcome as other unfitting names such as 'The Slug and Lettuce' or the 'Rat and Parrot'.

The new bar is to be formed at the left hand end (the south end) of the White Hart where there is already an existing door. This door would be changed to an improved design and there would be some small improvements in the hard landscaping. However, the proposal as originally drawn had a number of unwelcome external features.

The White Hart is a very important grade II* listed building with simple south and east elevations that would be affected by the pub. Fussy window boxes were shown on these elevations along with poorly designed awnings that masked the curved heads of the windows. A completely unnecessary wrought iron arch was to clutter the corner of the building and five lamps attached to the exterior. All this, plus too many advertisements, was a recipe for ruining the character of the highly prominent White Hart Hotel. Both the York Georgian Society and the Victorian Society wrote to the Council with strongly held views against this disfiguring treatment of the building, using words such as -simplicity of the architecture, highly damaging, excellent proportions, nothing should detract from its present unity. Both organisations wanted to see window boxes, awnings, wrought iron arch, new signs and lanterns deleted from the application. Civic Society had written in a similar way and I am pleased to say that most of this clutter has been rejected by the planners. Regarding the interior, we were not happy about putting in a raised floor in the large end room that will form the bar, and the Victorian Society said that it was unnecessary and would spoil the proportions of the room. The York Georgian Society did not have an objection to this though. However we were concerned how this raised floor would relate to the skirting boards and how a raised bar would relate to the windows. There could be awkward juxtapositions and original features be made to look out of place! Some of the internal work was positive - re-instatement of a working fireplace, use of reclaimed and reproduction fixtures and fittings, and removal of a modern insertion that was used as a chair store. The application has been approved in a modified form.

We looked at an application for two new dormer windows at 12 Westmorland Street. Unfortunately the plans showed over large dormers of unequal size and which did not line up with the first floor windows. We asked that they be amended so as to be more in keeping with the property and more fitting to the conservation area. The application was approved with the amendments that we had hoped.

There has been a spate of applications for monopole telecommunications masts recently. These are always accompanied by equipment cabinets and they have caused considerable public outcry as we have seen in the Harrogate Advertiser. We have sent objections regarding three such monopoles, outside 52 Cold Bath Road (14.8m high), outside St Aidan's School (20m high), and outside 40 Crab Lane (11.8m high). Two of them are in the Harrogate conservation area, Cold Bath Road and St. Aidan's School. We have just heard that the monopole on Cold Bath Road has been refused permission. It is probably easier to resist such monopoles in the conservation area. The Crab Lane one would see the monopole and equipment cabinet on a grass verge between footway and road, close to the Post Office. The verge is narrow with trees including two newly planted ones and is well maintained - one tree may be in danger from the installation. Cold Bath Road also has an attractive verge with mature trees plus a newly planted tree near where it is planned to put the mast. The usual equipment cabinet and a meter cabinet are included. The one outside St. Aidan's on Oatlands Drive is very tall and opposite some old cottages and would be obtrusive in the conservation area. There is a lot of pedestrian traffic here, due to the two schools - St. Aidan's and St. John Fisher - and the pole would be installed in the footway with the equipment cabinets on the verge.



A wind turbine on a 15m mast was proposed at Hill Top Lane, Pannal. We were concerned about its visual intrusion into the countryside - designated Special Landscape Area - the Crimble Valley, at this point. It was refused because of its proximity to neighbours and the lack of a site specific noise survey.

There is a controversial proposal to convert the Mile Post Pub on Leeds Road into a Sainsbury's supermarket. This is another planning application that has achieved coverage in the Harrogate Advertiser. We are disappointed that, of recent times, as it has little competition, this pub seems to have been failing.



The nearest pubs are at Pannal, West Park and The Woodlands. Now, even though it is apparently under better management, it looks as if it will close before it has had a proper chance to revive. We believe that the application should be refused; there is no need for a supermarket with the Leeds Road Parade of shops so close by - what would be the point of encouraging any of them to fail? The traffic situation would be worsened in respect of greater congestion and danger. Probably there will be many more vehicle movements than the pub would create, especially at peak times. The design of an extension on the left hand side is very poor and visually damaging to the building and the street scene. A separate application for a refrigeration plant in a small compound, plus an ATM, has been lodged. We considered that the refrigeration in its wooden fenced compound should have formed part of the main application, but we do not know why it was not included. Surely it is an integral part of the supermarket?

A pharmacy for the Leeds Road Surgery is also causing concern locally, but we did not send representation because we felt that the small extension to accommodate the pharmacy would not be detrimental to the conservation area. The application went to planning committee but was deferred due to a need to consider the content of the officer's report. (I do not know what this referred to). The officer recommendation was for approval.

To end with, 2 very important applications. You may know that there is now a new proposal for a primary substation. The site is next to the Harrogate Spa Water Bottling Plant - in the same field on the right hand side - a far more preferable location for a number of reasons than within a few metres of St. Wilfrid's Church! We see it as an acceptable location provided that landscaping is sufficient in scope and quality.

The other proposal is not acceptable. *Harlow Carr Gardens* want to create a 500 (yes 500) space car park on a virgin field on Crag Lane beyond the Pine Woods.



We would look more favourably on extra car parking near Otley Road. An encroachment further into the countryside should not be allowed. However successful Harlow Carr Gardens has become does not give them the right to expand car parking ad libitum in this way. The site will begin to take on the appearance of a retail park. If you have views on this, please look at the application and respond to the Council - there is still plenty of time.

**Henry Pankhurst
May, 2011**



Heritage Open Days 2011 will be 8th to 11th September

The annual event Heritage Open Days celebrates England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Every year on four days in September, buildings of every age, style and function throw open their doors, ranging from castles to factories, town halls to tithe barns, parish churches to Buddhist temples. It is a once-a-year chance to discover hidden architectural treasures and enjoy a wide range of tours, events and activities which bring to life local history and culture.

Free of charge and literally on people's doorstep, Heritage Open Days is an event for everyone.

Are there any properties you would like to view? Mike Burke is seeking your suggestions. See Programme of Events for contact details.



**‘Of all England’s once-benighted cities,
Leeds has ... destroyed its fabric least
and understood its urbanity best’**

John Thorpe, Civic Architect, Leeds, quoting the writer, Simon Jenkins

I used to know Leeds well but, when I drive in the city these days, I do a lot of muttering about the road systems and the alarming barrage of traffic direction boards. It’s something of a white knuckle ride for my passengers as well, as I swoop up on to flyovers and down into underpasses, or take to The Loop with a prayer that I haven’t committed us to an immutable fast track that will spit us out in downtown Bradford.

John Thorp, Civic Architect to the City of Leeds, came to talk to us at Grant’s Hotel in March. Much of what he told us came as a revelation to me, most notably some very good reasons for the new road systems. In (my) very basic layman’s terms, in Leeds they have been working for more than twenty years towards 1.) taking as much traffic as possible away from the city centre and 2.) re-claiming space in the centre, for people. He said city centres like Leeds were designed for people, not for traffic. Well of course they were – I’d just never thought of that!

Mr Thorp began with Medieval Leeds around 1550 and the city of villages it had become by 1775, eventually bringing us to present day Leeds. We were given an overview of the growth of a great city peppered with the fascinating small detail that only a true enthusiast can bring to his subject. I’ll try to illustrate his talk by telling you briefly about just one area of major change in the city – Millennium Square. This is the name now of the large open space in front of the Civic Hall. Many of us remember it in the days when it was laid out with municipal flower beds, miles of little railings and lawns, and benches where you could sit in your lunch hour and eat a sandwich ... encircled within the reverberating racket and vaporous summer fumes of bumper-to-bumper traffic.

Work carried out between 1996 and 2008 has transformed the area. Two sides of the square are now traffic free. Several of the buildings around the space have been restored or rebuilt, inspired by the grace and style of the Civic Hall itself, and with the visual and public amenities of the square and its rare open space in mind. It was formally opened on 30 April 2001 by Nelson Mandela who was welcomed to Leeds by a crowd of 7,000, in the square, and made an Honorary Freeman of the City. (Mr Mandela was forgiven for inadvertently mentioning how happy he was to be in *Liverpool!*)

Millennium Square has since become a focal point for events in the city. It’s location is second to none being on many important doorsteps – among which are those of the General Infirmary, the University, the Art Gallery, Leeds City Museum (formerly the Leeds Institute), the Civic Hall of course, and even the Town Hall.

It has hosted performances of outdoor theatre, concerts by bands like Meat Loaf, operatic and orchestral performances, as well as civic ceremonies, fairs, markets and street entertainment. There is also a large BBC screen which shows major sporting events such as Wimbledon – brilliant! In winter there are weeks of the open air German jewellery and textile markets, then the Ice Cube Event comes after Christmas when the UK’s largest outdoor ice rink is installed in the square – and there’s a warm café for spectators.

A long way from the old *Please Keep Off The Grass* days, don’t you think?

**Jacky Little
HCS Member**



Almost 60 Civic Society members and guests enjoyed an entertaining talk by Victor Wild of Bettys, following a delicious meal in the Imperial Room amidst the beautifully restored 1920s plasterwork and oak fittings, on Tuesday 12th April. (Note: the apostrophe in Betty's was officially dropped by the company some time ago!) Over three courses of smoked salmon, chicken and cheesecake, guests chatted and became better acquainted with each other on the tables of eight.

Victor Wild (for a number of years Treasurer of the Society) gave a detailed account of the establishment and development of the company since the family's earliest days in Switzerland. With him we followed his ancestor Fritz as he survived a family tragedy and numerous difficulties before he found himself in England in 1907, having trained as a baker and confectioner in Marseilles and Paris.

His first job was with Bonnet's Chocolates in Bradford, after which he anglicised his name, styling himself "Frederick Belmont, Chocolate Specialist" and started travelling around the north of England. In 1912, the toffee-makers Farrah's invited him to Harrogate to show them how to make continental chocolates. Frederick fell in love with his landlady's daughter and decided to stay in Harrogate, which, with its clean atmosphere and hills, reminded him of home.

In 1919 Frederick opened his first tea-room in Harrogate in Cambridge Crescent, a tall property over several floors, with a shop on the ground floor, a café on the first floor and the bakery right at the top

Victor recalled the narrow staircase and the lift which was operated by a rope! Over the coming years the business soon expanded, with tea-rooms opening in Bradford, Leeds and York.

Frederick and his wife had no children to whom the business could be handed on, and in 1936 Viktor Wild, Frederick's 13-year old nephew, volunteered to leave Switzerland and come to Harrogate. He began to learn the ropes, amended his name a little, and as Victor Wild he took over the running of the company when his uncle died in 1952. In 1962, under Victor's direction, Bettys acquired the Harrogate tea and coffee business, C.E. Taylor & Co., an old-established Harrogate firm, founded in 1886, which had cafes in other local towns, as well as the Tea House in Harrogate's Valley Gardens. Crucially, Taylor's Café Imperial in Harrogate became the site of the present-day Bettys. At the time of the take-over, Taylor's tea business had been going downhill, and Bettys knew little about the world of tea, but soon both the tea and coffee business began to flourish and today it is bigger than the Bettys catering side.

Victor remained on the Board of Bettys until 1996, and he still retains a keen interest in the business, as was apparent from his talk. He handed over the reins to his son Jonathan, who himself has recently announced his retirement.

In response to a question from the audience, Victor concluded his talk by confirming that no-one knew the origin of the name Bettys; many theories exist, but none has been proven!

At the end of his talk, Victor was thanked by Henry Pankhurst and presented with a token of appreciation.

**Stella Pilling
HCS Member**

Annual General Meeting
Monday, 23rd May, 2011 at 7.30 p.m. - Grant's Hotel
Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Financial Report
6. Election of Committee Officers:
Henry Pankhurst - Chairman
Susan Amaku - Vice Chairman
7. Re-election of Committee Officer:
Peter Brown - Treasurer and Membership Secretary
8. Any Other Business

**The Meeting will be followed by a talk by
Jean McQuarrie, Editor, Ackrill Media Group**

Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting
Held on 24th June, 2010 at Grant's Hotel

Present: Howard Hughes (Chairman), Henry Pankhurst (Vice Chairman),
Victor Wild (Treasurer), Peter Brown (Membership)

Susan Amaku, Mike Burke, Peter Hacker, Stuart Holland, Granville Simpson

In attendance: Jacky Little – Minutes Secretary

Apologies for Absence

1.0

P. Barnwell, Mrs. H. Brandom, J. Brandom, I. Brown, Mrs. M. Dawson, M. Hine, R. F. Lambert, Mrs. M. Lowery, G. Todd, G. White, Mrs. K. Wild

Minutes of the Last Meeting

2.0

The Minutes were accepted as a true record, proposed by Howard Hughes, seconded by Peter Brown.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.0

4.2 second paragraph : The photographic competition was part of Civic Societies' Week. It brought publicity to the society and the civic societies movement, and won an award.

Chairman's Report

4.0

The Chairman reported that there are a few changes to the committee. Victor Wild is standing down as both Treasurer and committee member and Howard told the meeting how very grateful we have been for Victor's contribution to the work of the committee for many years. A gift was presented to him from the committee members as a mark of the society's appreciation.

Howard also announced that he himself is standing down as Chairman and committee member. Henry Pankhurst spoke of some of the excellent work Howard had done over fifteen years, first as Secretary – then during Lilian Mina's chairmanship their remarkable achievement in the restoration of the Royal Hall – before becoming chairman himself. Henry presented Howard with a gift from the committee members and thanked him for his important contribution to the society.

Howard said that during the years when he and Lilian had been involved with the Royal Hall restoration the number of committee members had fallen but this was something he had addressed recently. He was able to say with confidence that, with several new members, he was leaving the committee in good and capable hands.

The hardest working and most long standing member of the committee, of course, is Henry Pankhurst and Howard said he could not praise Henry highly enough for his hard and most effective work in planning matters on behalf of the society and its members.

The Design Awards had long been discontinued but have now been reinstated with extremely hard work by Stuart Holland and Susan Amaku, and David Kelly had been co-opted as a judge. The awards have been good for the standing of the society with the council, the profile of the society, and the winners have been displaying their awards with pride.

A recent aim has been the establishment of sub-committees to take on specific tasks, reporting to the main committee. These have taken responsibility for such tasks as the photography competition, the Design Awards, and the installation of plaques around the town – the latter having been accomplished by Peter Hacker and Malcolm Neesam. These have all contributed to the raised profile of the society.

Finally, Howard said he has been involved with several committees but had not in any other found the harmony that he has enjoyed in his work with the civic society. It had been a privilege to be a part of the committee and he will continue to take an active interest as a member

4.1

Howard asked Henry to report on planning matters. Henry began by informing the meeting that during the year he had attended 18 meetings at Knapping Mount in which he was regularly helped by Peter Hacker and Peter Brown, and occasionally by Howard and Mike Burke.

There had been 225 planning applications studied in the year and we had responded to 74 of them, or 33%. Last year we looked at 238 and responded to 98, which represented 41%.

4.2

The following shows how decisions went on the applications we responded to and how the civic society viewed the decisions:-

Total Received	Good	Bad	Fair	Withdrawn
72	34	10	18	10
	47%	14%	25%	14%

4.3

We had taken part in certain planning policy matters. These were SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment) and the SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment).

The Council had also set up a working group for sports and recreation matters. The Council wanted to bring Claro Road into use as a community sports regeneration area but the inspector had taken it out of the Core Strategy.

There had been character appraisals of Harrogate District Conservation Areas. There are more than 50 conservation areas over the district and an additional conservation officer was brought in especially to help with the very big task of appraising the Harrogate Conservation Area.

We had also attended a meeting regarding the effect that climate change might have on planning policy.

4.4

Henry invited questions and Mrs Brenda Towler raised the subject of the proposed closure of the police station and the new station out of town. Henry explained that a planning application had not been validated so far but it looks quite likely that the move will take place. Mrs Towler believed that the police should be in town, not away from the centre. A vote to keep the police station in town was proposed by Henry, seconded by Mrs Towler and was unanimous.

4.5

Howard reported that there had been a planning application by NEDL to build a very large primary substation within the curtilage of St Wilfrid's Church. We were grateful that the Chairman of YHACS, Mr Peter Cooper, had supported our efforts to discourage this development with an excellent report in his current Newsletter. English Heritage had not objected to the proposal except for some minor details despite approaches from a great many Harrogate residents, the Harrogate Civic Society and the Duchy Residents' Association, all of whom feel let down by English Heritage.

Financial Report

5.0

The Treasurer announced that the society has made a loss and suggested this fact might account for his resignation!

More seriously, he explained that we have been very much more active and this has involved expense in such activities as the Design Awards, the photographic competition, and the installation of several plaques. Interest rates were low last year and will not be much better in the current year.

Peter Brown, in addition to being the Membership Secretary, has agreed to take on also the role of Treasurer.

5.1

In summary, Victor reported a total balance of £13,500 in the bank accounts and said that as it is the society's policy to have at least £10,000 in reserve against any unforeseen legal costs that might arise, there is no doubt we are in a sound financial position.

Election of Committee Members and Officers

6.0

The re-election of committee members takes place every three years and no one is due for re-election at this time.

The committee this year had comprised : Howard Hughes, Henry Pankhurst, Victor Wild, Susan Amaku, Ian Brown, Peter Brown, Peter Hacker, Stuart Holland and Granville Simpson. Chris Holland served as secretary on the committee up to May.

Henry Pankhurst is Vice Chairman and Planning Representative. Peter Brown will continue his work as Membership Secretary and has agreed to take over as Treasurer from Victor Wild.

No nominations for chairman and secretary have as yet been received and the committee members will take the chair on a rotating basis until these offices are filled.

Howard Hughes proposed Henry Pankhurst as Vice Chairman and Peter Brown as Treasurer and Membership Secretary and the vote was unanimous.

Any Other Business

7.0

Mrs Janet Barker brought up the subject of cycling on the Stray. Concern was expressed over the widening of some paths to accommodate cyclists, and the behaviour of cyclists on the Stray, now and in the future. Henry informed the meeting that the society is powerless to do anything about this as the council had voted again in favour of cycling on the Stray and it will go ahead. The question remaining is whether the cyclists will adhere strictly to the cycle paths. We will have to wait and see.

The meeting was followed by a talk, 'Harrogate in the 20th Century', from Malcolm Neesam, and refreshments.

Treasurer's Report For the year ended 28th February, 2011

During the year ended 28th February, 2011, the Society generated a surplus of £1,097 compared with a deficit of £1,077 in 2009/10 an improvement of £2,174.

In 2009, you will recall that we organised two major events to stimulate interest in our town, the Photographic Competition and the Design Awards Scheme. Whilst these were very successful, they both proved relatively expensive and together cost us £1,472 after taking account of entry fees.

Although we do expect to run these or similar events in the future, we decided not to repeat them in 2010 and the saving represents the majority of the £2,174 improvement

A further £465 was saved from fewer commemorative plaques although here again, we will continue to give our support to this activity.

While our subscription income was almost identical to last year, donations were much higher in the current year. The reason for this, as mentioned in the Vice Chairman's Report, was that Elizabeth, the widow of Ian Brown, our late committee member, generously allowed donations in his memory to be given to the Civic Society.

Although interest rates remain historically low, we have been able to find somewhat better rates for the Society's reserve funds, and the deposits with Scottish Widows and United Trust Bank have generated an additional £163.

There were two notable areas of increased cost. The first relates to Newsletters which have been larger and more frequent. We hope that you continue to find these of interest and would welcome your comments and suggestions for future editions. The second follows our affiliation to *Civic Voice* the national charity for the civic movement. The subscription is considerably higher than for *The Civic Trust* which unfortunately had to go into Administration due to lack of funds.

The only other movement worthy of mention is a saving of around £700 on Administration and Sundry Expenses, with much of this relating to non-recurring costs on leaflets, booklets and posters in 2009.

At 28th February, 2011, our accumulated Fund amounted to £14,669 of which £11,175 was held on interest earning deposit. Since the year end, these deposits have been increased by £1,500. We believe that it is prudent to hold this level of reserve for emergencies and it is your committee's policy to match annual outgoings and annual income as closely as possible

**Peter Brown
Treasurer and Membership Secretary**

**Financial Report
for the year Ended 28th February, 2011**

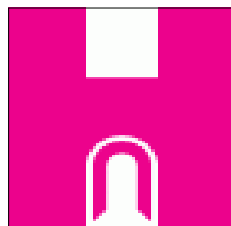
INCOME	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Subscriptions:-		
Cheques and Cash	1,479	1,531
Standing Orders	<u>1,485</u>	<u>1,452</u>
	2,964	2,983
Donations:-		
In memory of Ian Brown	465	
Other	<u>227</u>	291
Bank Interest	177	14
Tax Reclaim	<u>797</u>	<u>881</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>4,630</u>	<u>4,169</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Newsletters	1,003	540
Subscriptions to other Societies	425	145
Insurance	250	240
Administration and Sundry Expenses	916	1,644
Plaques	189	654
Equipment	76	380
Donation	100	0
Competitions and other Forums	<u>574</u>	<u>1,643</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>3,533</u>	<u>5,246</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>£1,097</u>	<u>£(1,077)</u>
BALANCE SHEET		
Accumulated Fund at 1st March, 2010	13,572	14,649
Surplus/(Deficit) in the Year	<u>1,097</u>	<u>(1,077)</u>
Accumulated Fund at 28th February, 2011	<u>£14,669</u>	<u>£13,572</u>
Represented by:-		
Cash at Bank		
HBOS	0	11,966
United Trust Bank	10,086	0
Scottish Widows	1,000	0
Yorkshire Bank	<u>3,571</u>	<u>1,606</u>
	14,657	13,572
Add: Bank Interest Accrued	<u>89</u>	<u>0</u>
	14,746	13,572
Less: Creditors	<u>77</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	<u>£14,669</u>	<u>£13,572</u>



Heritage Open Days was established in 1994 as England’s contribution to European Heritage Days, in which 49 countries now participate. In the UK, four other schemes open up places in September: Open House London, Doors Open Days in Scotland, Open Doors Days in Wales and European Heritage Days in Northern Ireland.

Dr Simon Thurley, Chief Executive, English Heritage, says: “**Heritage Open Days** this year is set to be even bigger than last year, so even if you are a regular Heritage Open Days-goer there will be something new for you to see and do. This is a chance to explore not just country houses but the history and culture of everything from Buddhist temples and Masonic lodges to mines, farms, pubs and factories.”

“**Heritage Open Days** is about people and places; it celebrates community and reflects the importance of the built environment in our lives and to our quality of life. It is organised by local people who dedicate their spare time to opening properties and staging activities, and it is their knowledge and enthusiasm that makes **Heritage Open Days** happen.”



Harrogate Civic Society

Programme of Events 2011

A Guided Tour of Ripon Cathedral by the Reverend Derek Ching

Derek is co-author of several publications about the cathedral - 'Medieval Woodcarvings of Ripon Cathedral: choir stalls, canopies, ceiling bosses and misericords' and 'Who do you think they were? The memorials of Ripon Cathedral'. In addition to providing an overview of the cathedral, Derek will focus on the memorials and carvings

Monday, 9th May, 2011 at 10.15 a.m.

Meet at the main (west) entrance. The tour will last approximately 1 hour 30 minutes and will include a tour of the crypt

To reserve a place, please contact Susan Amaku on 01423 819553
or email civicsociety.info@btinternet.com

(Also, please advise if you require assistance with transport - Peter Hacker 01423 567968 has a disabled badge and can park at the west front)

Venue: Ripon Cathedral

Donation: £3.00 per person to Ripon Cathedral

Annual General Meeting

with Guest Speaker

Jean McQuarrie, Editor of the Ackrill Media Group

Monday, 23rd May, 2011, at 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Grant's Hotel

Civic Society Day

Dedication of trees planted in memory of Ian Brown

Saturday, 11th June, 2011 at 10.45 a.m.

Assemble outside the Library on Victoria Avenue at 10.45 a.m.,
in readiness for the arrival of the Mayor at 11.00 a.m.

Meeting Point: Library Entrance

Dedication to be followed by Refreshments
RSVP: to civicsociety.info@btinternet.com

Heritage Open Days

Please contact Mike Burke on 01423 569563
or email civicsociety.info@btinternet.com

With any suggestions of buildings which you would like to visit as part of
Heritage Open Days

Thursday, 8th to Sunday, 11th September, 2011