

# HEALTH IN HARROGATE 200

We are delighted to announce that Harrogate Medical Society and Harrogate Hospital, supported by your Society, will be mounting a **major exhibition** later this year to celebrate the 200-year anniversary of the Royal Bath Hospital, the first hospital in Harrogate.

**The exhibition will showcase** the fascinating story of health and wellbeing in Harrogate – from the opening of the hospital, through Victorian and Edwardian medicine, to modern healthcare and future perspectives.

**Where:** West Park Centre, corner of Victoria Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 1EQ

**When:** Monday 6 April 2026 until 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Opening Times:** Every **Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10:30am – 3:00pm.**

Free no need to book.

 **Café Open Daily** – Tea, coffee, scones and cakes available

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In addition, there will be a **special programme of talks, walks, exhibitions and activities** celebrating Harrogate's unique medical, spa and social history, and the people who shaped it (full details below).

Please book tickets by following the link or the QR code or, on the evening, buy at West Park reception. The events will all take place at West Park Centre and cost £10 a head unless otherwise specified.

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**Volunteers are wanted to help steward the exhibition and supporting events. Please help if you can by contacting [lizbooth59@googlemail.com](mailto:lizbooth59@googlemail.com) for full details.**

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**Any profits from this project will be donated to St. Michael's Hospice.**

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## **Programme of Events**

**Wednesday 8 April – 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

**Dr Paul Jennings**

**Title: Children's sickness and health: the experience of late Victorian and Edwardian Harrogate**

this talk explores those themes through Harrogate's schools, looking at the state schools attended by the working classes and the private schools of the middle classes. The talk will examine the range of sickness to which children succumbed, the reasons for it and efforts to improve the situation.

✎ Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FUJJ>



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**Friday 10 April, Drop in between 10.30am to 3pm West Park Centre**

**Emily Holmes** Curator (Harrogate) Mercer Art Gallery and The Royal Pump Room

**Object 'Show & Tell' with Harrogate Museums**

Join us to get up close and personal with objects held in North Yorkshire Council's Harrogate Museum Collection relating to the history of Harrogate as a Spa town.

**Free no need to book**

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**Saturday 11 April & Saturday 25 April 3.30pm to 5pm including Tea and Cake**

### **Guided Walk – Harry Satloka**

Harry describes himself as barely a historian let alone a medical professional, but he can tell a good story. He will be celebrating 200 years of the first hospital in Harrogate and the millions who have sought out “the cure” in our beautiful Spa town over that time... and some who wish they hadn't!

The walk will start at the War Memorial and finish at West Park Centre, with tea and cake to follow

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FXLA>



**Wednesday 15 April 7pm to 8.30pm (A joint HMS/ HCS event)**

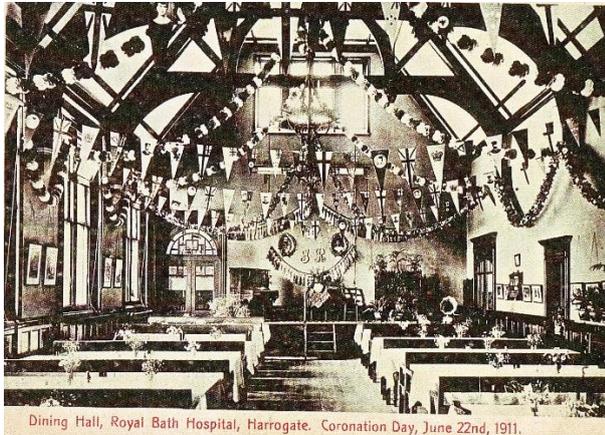
**Peter Holmes, Fiona Evard & Royal Bath Hospital Staff**

**Title: 200-year anniversary of the first hospital in Harrogate**

Peter Holmes, civil servant and Fiona Evard, retired physiotherapists will lead a presentation with former staff of the Royal Bath Hospital bringing the hospital's history to life. With contributions from Dr Mike Martin, Carmel Duff and other staff.

This talk is free to members of Harrogate Medical Society and Harrogate Civic Society but booking by members is still strongly advised.

✍ Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FUPU>



Dining Hall, Royal Bath Hospital, Harrogate. Coronation Day, June 22nd, 1911.

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**Friday 17 April and Saturday 18 April 7pm to 8.30pm**



## **Harrogate Dramatic Society – A Healthy Miscellany**

The Harrogate Dramatic Society will entertain with an evening of readings from plays, poems and other writings on the general theme of wellbeing in Harrogate and beyond.

✍ Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FVQI>



**Saturday 18 April 3:00pm – 5:00pm**

**Dr Jed Atkinson**

 **Schools Competition Award Ceremony**

 Children's talk and activities

**Title: Something in the Water**

Dr Jed Atkinson is Education Officer at the Royal Pump Room Museum

In this talk, we explore what is really in Harrogate Spa waters, why Harrogate has 88 different springs, and what lies beneath the town.

**Free but please book.**

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FYOR>



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**Wednesday 22 April 7pm to 8.30pm**

**Dr Peter Hammond**

**Title: 1922 and all that: from insulin intrigue to the artificial pancreas - searching for a cure for type 1 diabetes**

Peter Hammond, consultant endocrinologist, will talk about the history of treatment for type 1 diabetes from ketotic diets, through the discovery of insulin to closed-loop insulin delivery systems and future developments such as immunotherapy and stem cell transplantation, considering the evolving management of type 1 diabetes as a paradigm for the treatment of auto-immune endocrine disorders.

 Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FUPW>



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**Wednesday 29 April 7pm to 8.30pm**

**Harry Satloka**

**Title: Harrogate's Spa Heritage**

Harry describes himself as barely a historian let alone a medical professional, but he can tell a good story. He will be celebrating 200 years of the first hospital in Harrogate and the millions who have sought out “the cure” in our beautiful spa town over that time... and some who wish they hadn't!

✎ Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FUQC>



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**Saturday 2 May 7pm to 8.30pm**

**Sarah Devonald, Andrew Hitchen and Dr. Paul Jennings**

**Title: Sound Health - the music of Harrogate's Spa, Stray and Streets**

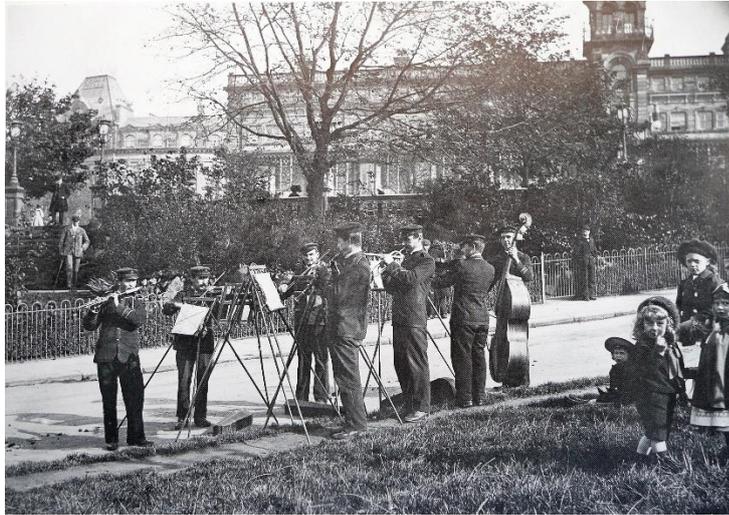
In the 100 years leading up to the 2nd World War Harrogate was known for its cures, green spaces and elegant architecture. But what was music's role in the town and how might it have promoted health and wellbeing, not only for its many rich visitors but also for the working people who served them?

BBC Radio 3's Sarah Devonald alongside social historian Dr Paul Jennings, concerts director Andrew Hitchen and a guest academic, leads

us through some of the musical highlights of Harrogate's heyday as a spa town, illustrated with plenty of music, stories and images of times gone by.

Cost: £15

✎ Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FWKO>



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**Wednesday 13 May 7pm to 8.30pm**

**Dr Mike Green**

**Title: Rheumatology advances through the ages**

Dr Green is a Rheumatologist who works at York and Harrogate Hospitals.

Dr Green will share the developments in rheumatology over the last 200 years. He will discuss Twentieth-century breakthroughs brought anti-inflammatories, steroids, methotrexate, and earlier diagnosis.

✎ Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FWKL>



## **What Else Is Happening?**

### **Harrogate Library**

Harrogate Library will host a display of information and photographs on the theme of “**Health in Harrogate**”, created using resources from their archive. Harrogate Photographic Society will be assisting in this project.

### **The Royal Pump Room Museum**

The Pump Room Museum explores Harrogate’s unique spa history, from its early 16th century beginnings to its prosperous Edwardian heyday, and eventual decline as a destination spa.

Visitors interested in Harrogate’s heritage are encouraged to visit the Pump Room to explore this remarkable story in more detail.

### **Dr Wilfrid Edgecombe memorial plaque unveiling**

During the exhibition period we hope to unveil our latest brown plaque to commemorate Dr Wilfrid Edgecombe who was instrumental in the foundation of Harrogate General Hospital and fittingly described as "perhaps the last of the Spa Physicians".

### **Film at the Odeon**

**Thursday 23 April 10am to midday**

### **Doctor in the House**

Booking instructions to follow