



HARROGATE  
Civic Society

*Celebrating 50 years*

# NEWSLETTER

*July 2021*



*Station Square. Members of the Civic Society committee met with representatives of North Yorkshire County Council and Harrogate Borough Council on 7 July to discuss the current proposals for the Station Gateway project. This would involve changes to the layout of Station Square as well as reductions in road space and the introduction of cycle lanes. See page 6*

## In this issue ...

- New features on our website
- New Park - A social history
- Heritage Open Days
- Friends of Valley Gardens
- Harrogate and District Allotment Federation show
- Our next guided walk
- Station Gateway update
- AGM agenda and papers

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday 28 July at 7.30 pm**

Our constitution requires us to have an AGM by the end of July. We delayed our 2020 AGM due to Covid, and held it on 23 February 2021. We are now trying to get back on track with our usual July AGM date and look forward to a face-to-face AGM in 2022.

In this newsletter you find the AGM Agenda, our latest Financial Report and a short report from our co-chairs.

Nominations for Officers and Members of the Committee should be made in writing and signed by a proposer and seconder who are members of the Society and be received by the Secretary (108 Duchy Road HG1 2HB) at least 14 days before the AGM.

Please let us know if you will be attending: [events@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:events@harrogatecivicsociety.org)

**Celebrate** our past - **Enhance** our present - **Shape** our future

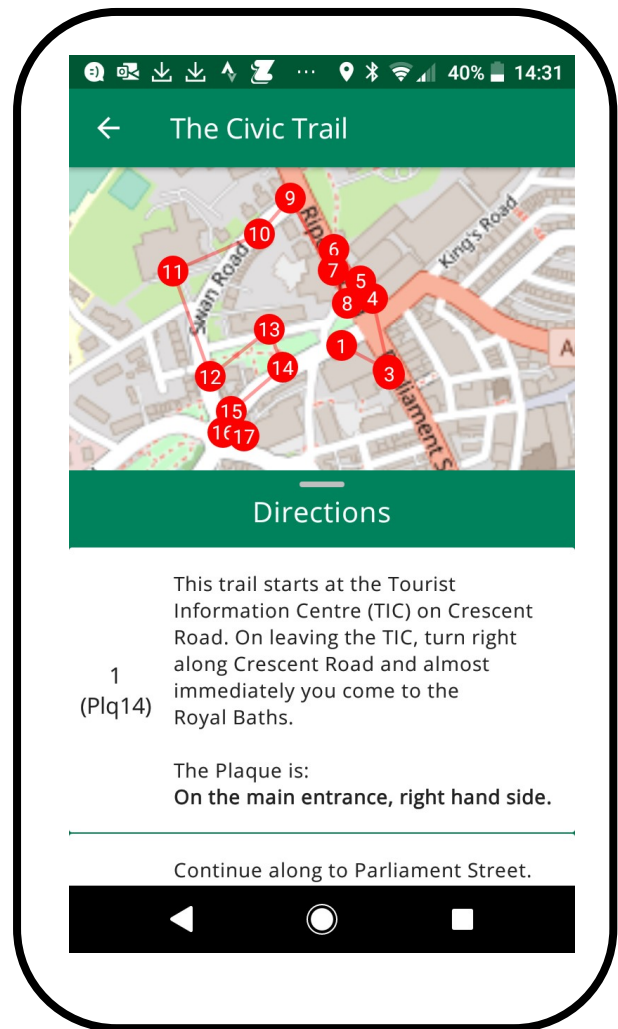
## Website news

The new Civic Society website is now well established and is being kept up to date with news as it arises and new articles when they become available. Keep checking to see what's been added.

### a new app ....

We are pleased to announce a new addition to the Plaques website facilities. Simon Dicken, the son of the plaques website author Chris, has been busy over the last year, developing an android phone app for the plaques walking trails. The new app has all the trails and maps on it and also shows your location as you walk around a trail, making it easy to follow. There are details of all the plaques and all the written directions too.

The app will be available in the next few weeks from the Google play store to download with a link on the plaques website too. It is currently only available as an android app, but an iphone version may follow.



### and lots more on Harrogate's history ....

The Civic Society's History Group has produced several guides and articles for the History Section of the website.

- a brief history of the town, illustrated with contemporary photographs of notable buildings
- guides to writing on the town's history, to the sources of that history and their location
- a series called Down Your Street which has articles on Harrogate's streets, beginning with Omega Street at New Park by Terry Williams and Valley Road, near the Valley Gardens, by Paul Jennings. We would welcome ideas or research from any members on future streets
- an article by Paul Jennings on Civic Society and other plaques around the town dedicated to women, including Florence Nightingale, Catherine Gurney, Dr Laura Veale, Dr Kathleen Rutherford, Mehroo Jehangir and Grand Duchess George of Russia

You can find all these by going to

[www.harrogatecivicsociety.org/history](http://www.harrogatecivicsociety.org/history)



Valley Road





## New Park - A social history

*A report by Susan Amaku*

On 25<sup>th</sup> May, we enjoyed Part 2 of Terry William's history of New Park. Whereas Part 1 had concentrated on the industrial development of this part of the town this talk focused on the people, personalities and key families.

The presentation opened with a 1904 photograph of the headmaster of the school – Mr Manson with a class of 44 children. On the back row was a boy from the Lupton family, who owned a 'high class' grocer's store on Skipton Road. The family were members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society who supported the school.

Another family of note in the area were the Skeppers who ran the post office. On the site of this building there is now a memorial garden to Donald Skepper, sub postmaster, who in 1974 was tragically murdered by the Black Panther. Terry paid tribute to the Skepper family, who have been very helpful in providing historical information and in particular a copy of the Lupton diary, for the New Park Heritage Centre.

In its heydays, New Park had 52 amenities, including a large school, chapels, grocers, post office, corner shop, Addyman's butchers, Pratt's garage, a chiroprapist, laundry and even a women's football team.

We also learnt of two famous people associated with the area: the cricketer Maurice Leyland (who grew up on Quarry Lane) and Barbara Taylor Bradford.



*New Park was a hard-working community in the early 1930s when this photo was taken at the New Park gala. Generations of these families remained in New Park, but when one of the ladies moved north later on, she was presented with a tablecloth embroidered with 174 signatures as a token of the community spirit which prevailed. That tablecloth will be on display in the New Park Heritage Centre.*

*Photo: the Cracknell family archive*

The sense of community spirit was clear in the images of carnivals, coronation celebrations and a May Queen float.

**The New Park Heritage Centre is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and will be officially re-opened by the Mayor on Saturday 18 September. The Centre will be open during Heritage Open Days in September and we encourage you to arrange a visit.**



Heritage Open Days (HODS) will run from 10 to 19 September 2021.

We have about 20 buildings taking part including, for the first time, the chapel at Rudding Park (*pictured*) and St Robert's RC Church.

Also new this year is a walks programme. Guides will be leading six tours around different parts of the town, New Park and Starbeck.

We are working closely with Harrogate Borough Council who will be opening up some of their buildings, including the Civic Centre.

The full programme will be published during August.



## Our links with other organisations and groups

Since the start of the year, we have been working hard to forge links with other organisations throughout the town so that between us we can speak with a more effective voice on matters where we have a mutual interest.

We are pleased to publish articles written by other organisations and groups as we foster these links.

This month we feature the Friends of Valley Gardens and the Harrogate and District Allotment Federation.

We hope members will find these interesting and informative. More articles will follow in future editions.

## Friends of Valley Gardens

*An article contributed by Ann Beeby of the Friends of Valley Gardens (FOVG)*



**T**he Friends of Valley Gardens care about Harrogate's Valley Gardens; we are involved in protecting this important space, informing all our many visitors and residents about the Spa heritage and helping to keep it looking its best throughout the year.

Anne Smith was the first person to see the need for The Friends when she took on restoring the Sun Pavillion, the opening of which was celebrated in 2000. During the period 2010 to 2018, under the leadership of Jane Blayney, the Friends gained funding for three major projects; restoration of the Old Magnesia Well Pump and surrounding Peat Garden, the King Edward VII Memorial gate and the restoration of the Japanese Gardens and brought them to fruition.

The Friends of Valley Gardens are currently managed by a Trustee Committee of four members. One project completed during 2020 by one of the Trustees, Andrew Jordan, is the production of a leaflet in the form of a map with all the points of interest marked and key areas illustrated. The map illustration was commissioned by The Friends from Elaine Sinclair based in Cumbria and we are delighted that HBC is going to use the same map on their new notice boards at both entrances to the gardens. The leaflets are now available at the Tourist Information Centre and downloadable from [www.friendsofvalleygardens.com](http://www.friendsofvalleygardens.com)

Following the success of the King Edward VII Memorial gate our plans include discussing with HBC the

FOVG and Harrogate Civic Society have been reciprocal group members for some years, and we know that we have many members in common.

We congratulate the Civic Society on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and look forward to sharing in their future.

possibility of improving the main entrance to the gardens opposite the Pump Room Museum.

The small volunteer gardening team continues to support the full time gardeners, mostly to maintain the three project areas which all need additional support whilst the planting develops and we plan to commence opening the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room on a

**‘the Friends gained funding for three major projects; restoration of the Old Magnesia Well Pump and surrounding Peat Garden, the King Edward VII Memorial gate and the restoration of the Japanese Gardens ‘**

regular basis. We do need more volunteers to come forward and help in both these areas. The Friends offer guided walks for both history and gardening to schools and adult groups, and these have been extremely popular.

What of the future? Education of the Spa Heritage and history of the gardens is a particularly important part of what we do, something we share with the Civic Society. In a normal year there are nearly three and a half million visits to Valley Gardens with visitors from around the globe.



*The Old Magnesia Well pump room*



# Harrogate & District Allotment Federation Diamond Jubilee Show



*We thank Angela Dicken, secretary of the Harrogate and District Allotment Federation for supplying this article.*

Our first Show was held in 1960, but unfortunately little evidence remains of those early shows and we would be keen to hear from anyone who has any recollections. In 1975, the Allotment Show was part of the first Harrogate Autumn Flower Show organised by the North of England Horticultural Society. Over the years it has been held in the Exhibition Halls, the Assembly Rooms at the Royal Baths and the Wesley Chapel before moving to the Sun Pavilion in the Valley Gardens in 1998, where it has been held ever since.

The Show provides allotment plot holders from across Harrogate, Ripon and Knaresborough with the opportunity to showcase their gardening achievements, which range from prize fruit and vegetables to beautiful flowers; and to exhibit their perfect baking and preserves made from home grown produce. Children can show off their creative skills too. This year's Show Schedule will include a Diamond Jubilee Top Tray and Top Vase, a Diamond Jubilee Celebration Cake, a miniature bug hotel and an arrangement using recycled materials and including flowers, fruit and/or vegetables. Allotments have been a real haven during the pandemic and we expect some excellent exhibits this year.

Trophies are awarded at the end of the show to those plot holders who have achieved the most points in certain categories or who have presented particularly

## A date for your diary .....

Harrogate & District Allotment Federation will be holding its 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Allotment Show in the Sun Pavilion in Valley Gardens on **Sunday 15 August from 11am to 4pm**. This auspicious anniversary should have been celebrated in 2020, but sadly that Show had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic..

prize exhibits. Many of the trophies have been donated by, or are in memory of, local people. For example, the Rowland and Sheila Simpson Cup was donated in 1988 by the then Mayor of Ripon. Ripon City Allotment Society decided to award the trophy to the Ripon member gaining most points in Show. The Marjorie Aird Tray and Vase were purchased in 2013 following a donation by Marjorie who was a long time tenant and officer of North Outfall Allotment Association – these trophies are awarded for the Top Tray and Top Vase. The Ron Fry Cup for the best exhibit by a novice gardener was instituted in 2009 following the death of Ron Fry who was a key driver behind the Allotment Show for many years.



Profits from the shows go to a local nominated charity each year to enhance their gardening projects. Previous recipients have included Henshaws, Harrogate Easier Living Project, Open Country, The Forest School, Horticap, Tidy Gardens and Ripon Walled Garden. Profits from the Diamond Jubilee Show will be donated to Ripon Museums Trust.

Come and visit the Show on 15 August. Entry is free and there will be a range of craft and produce stalls around the Sun Pavilion and Sun Colonnade, Covid-19 permitting. More information can be found at [www.thehdaf.co.uk](http://www.thehdaf.co.uk)

## A guided walk

*From our stall at the Allotments Show on Sunday 15 August at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm*

Join local historian and Civic Society member, Dr Paul Jennings for A Walk Down Valley Drive: an exploration of houses, hotels, boarding houses and apartments and the people who lived and stayed there from c1896 (when most of the properties were built) onwards, and how the area has evolved. The walk will last about 1 hour.

The walks will set off at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm and will start from the Civic Society stall at the Harrogate and District Federation Annual Show by the Sun Pavillion and end at the King Edward VII Gate on Valley Drive. Valley Gardens will be busy that day due to the very popular Allotment event so please allow time to park, if coming by car. There is disc free parking on many of the nearby streets on the Cornwall Road side of Valley Gardens.



Numbers are strictly limited to 10 people for each walk. It is a gentle walk, with opportunities to stop along the way. Places will be offered on a first come, first served basis to anyone (member or not) booking at our stall that day, from 10.00 am onwards for the 11.30 walk and from 1.00 pm onwards for the 2.00 walk.

## The Harrogate Station Gateway project - an update



*Above: meeting at Harrogate Station entrance on 7 July*

*Below: Station Square. The neo-classical stone temple was originally intended to contain a sculpture or water feature*



We published the Civic Society's response to the Station Gateway proposals in our May 2021 newsletter. Since then we have been in contact with NYCC and HBC officers and took part in a joint walk around the area of the project on 7 July.

As the councils' team is beginning the detailed design work, we took the opportunity to discuss a number of issues including

- the treatment of Station Square including the use of high quality materials, the concept of a water feature, issues of maintenance, use as a location for events

- Proposals for traffic reduction on James Street
- Diversion of traffic via Cheltenham Mount
- Reducing street clutter
- Pedestrians and cyclists under One Arch
- Enhanced setting for the Jubilee Monument

The councils have set a very short timetable for completion of the design leading to construction in 2022. Further discussions will take place between us in the coming months.



*The following pages contain papers relating to the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 28 July at 7.30 pm via Zoom*

## The Zoom link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97755940437?pwd=cJTK0RDQjNkbE4rWHFKL2RXQW1sQT09>

## The agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Annual Report (incorporating reports from Sub Groups)
5. Financial Report (Financial Year end 28th February 2021)
6. Re-election of Committee Members and Officers, and election of any Committee members co-opted since the last AGM.
7. Election of any Committee members nominated in accordance with the provision of the Constitution before this AGM
8. Any Other Business

## Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd February 2021

**Present:** Committee members: Stuart Holland (joint Vice-Chair); Susan Amaku (Joint Vice-Chair); Angela Fahy (Secretary); Chris Dicken (Treasurer); Nigel McClea; David Siddans; Granville Simpson; and approximately 25 members.

**1. Apologies** were received from Henry Pankhurst (committee) and Graham Lloyd.

### 2. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

Because of the use of technology for this meeting, it was proposed that the minutes be accepted unless any comments were made. As there were no such comments, the minutes were deemed to be accepted.

### 3. Matters arising from the minutes

As no-one had previously raised any issues, and there were no comments from the meeting when participants were asked if they wished to raise anything, there were no matters arising.

### 4. Annual Report (Chairman's Report)

As there are now two Vice-Chairs instead of one Chairman the name of this report has been changed to Annual Report. It has been issued to members by email and will form part of the Annual Report to the Charity Commission.

Stuart Holland, leading the meeting, on behalf of himself and Susan Amaku, his Co-Vice-Chair, first thanked the other members of the Committee for all their work over the year. He also thanked two members who had decided to stand down from the Committee, Peter Brown (Treasurer) and Jacky Little.

Stuart drew attention to the events that had been held, as mentioned in the Report, the plaques installed and, especially, the new website [www.harrogateplaques.org](http://www.harrogateplaques.org), the result of a major piece of work by Chris Dicken, who has also produced a plaque trail with map that is available to visitors to the town. Harrogate

Grammar School has used the plaques information for a summer project.

At the last AGM the fate of the former Council offices in Crescent Gardens was unknown as it was back on the market. However, during this process Stuart and Susan were able to meet the successful bidder, Impala Estates, and they are confident that the picture is now more positive. Major features of the building such as the Mayor's parlour, Council Chamber and the grand staircase are to be retained and the Mercer Gallery have expressed an interest in being involved in selecting paintings to be hung on the staircase.

Sadly, two loyal friends of the Society passed away last year: Mike Hine, who was a real friend to HCS and to the Royal Hall, and Victor Wild, who had been a Committee member and Treasurer as well as providing talks on the history of Bettys.

Over the past year the Society has been working on a new vision for the future, one of the aims being to forge better links with outside bodies, especially Harrogate Borough Council. Links have now been established with both the Museums Curator and Head of Tourism and Sport and planning is underway with them for the Heritage Open Days in September.

The work of the Committee has now been re-organised into 4 sub-groups: Development & Planning, Communications, Events and History.

This year will see the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Harrogate Civic Society and it is hoped to organise some special events in the autumn.

### 5. Financial Report for the year ending 29 February 2020

The audited accounts were approved as presented. They showed a balance of £25,244 including a restricted sum of £2,000 for a Stray Interpretation board. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Joy Allan for examining the accounts.

## 6. Planning Report

The Planning Report was compiled by Henry Pankhurst, former HCS Chairman, who is now very active in the Development and Planning Sub-Group. In the past year this sub-group has examined 251 planning applications, compared to 225 the previous year, and submitted a response on 65 of these. In addition, their views on planning matters are often sought by the Council.

### Membership (item not on the agenda)

There are currently 68 individual members, 98 joint members, 4 family members, 6 honorary members and 29 patrons.

Numbers are approximately 50 down on the previous year, largely due to the ageing of the membership. A drive to attract new members is planned.

## 7. Re-election of Committee Members and election of any Committee Members co-opted since the last AGM

All the committee members from last year are still in place and willing to stand again with the exception of Peter Brown and Jacky Little, who have stood down.

Susan Amaku	Co-Chair
Stuart Holland	Co-Chair
Angela Fahy	Secretary
Henry Pankhurst	Development and Planning chair
David Siddans	Newsletter editor

The following co-opted members were duly elected to the committee

Chris Dicken	Treasurer
Chris Holland	Membership secretary
Nigel McClea	History sub-group chair

## 8. Election of any Committee members nominated in accordance with the provision of the Constitution before this AGM

No such nominations had been received.

## 9. Any other business

There was no other business from members.

Stuart then mentioned the many opportunities for members to become involved, especially with the work of the sub-groups. The History sub-group may be looking to mark a host of significant anniversaries coming up this year, such as the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Slingsby Well, the 150<sup>th</sup> of Harrogate RUFC, the 150<sup>th</sup> of the Cairn Hotel, the 100<sup>th</sup> of the Sorooptimists and the 30<sup>th</sup> of the Mercer Gallery. There are also opportunities to get involved with the work on plaques and the Heritage Open Days.

The meeting was informed of the public consultation opening tomorrow, 24/2/2021, on the Station Gateway proposals. Members should also be aware of consultations on the Beech Grove cycle route closure, and other cycle route proposals, and the proposed development of the Harrogate nurseries site.

Barry Adams said he was involved as a local resident with the response to the Beech Grove cycle route and had written letters to the Harrogate Advertiser and spoken to the Stray Ferret. He had received some very hostile comments on social media from cyclists in favour of the road closure and wanted to warn others of the antagonistic atmosphere in the discussion.

Nick Anderson commented that the approach to the planning of

the cycle routes was fragmented, and there did not seem to be any coherent plan. The one-way plan for Oatlands Drive was particularly ill-conceived. Debate would be welcomed.

Stuart agreed that debate on this matter would be a good idea and Michael Bell supported the idea of having such a debate.

Susan urged members to take a look at the proposals for the Station Gateway. HCS will express a view on this but it is important that individuals do too.

Stuart closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and urging members not to hesitate in coming forward with comments and offers of help.

### The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

### Report of the co-chairs

Members are referred to the report presented at the AGM in February covering the period to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

This report therefore only covers the months of January and February 2021 – a period of intense lockdown due to Covid.

The committee met via Zoom twice (and continue to do so monthly).

January saw the launch of our new logo – designed to be simple and easily used in publicity and social media.

The History group continued their research including the introduction of 'Down Your Street' – a series of articles to be published on individual streets in the town.

The Planning & Development group continue to monitor planning applications and this year considered in detail the proposed Station Gateway scheme. Planning statistics will feature in our summer newsletter.

The Communications group worked hard at designing the new website that went live shortly after the year end and is now attracting well over 200 visitors a month.

Events of course have been most challenging but at the AGM we had a fascinating talk by Mike Bevington on Fountains Abbey and soon afterwards Terry Williams gave two talks on New Park. These were via Zoom and attracted audiences in excess of 25.

Looking forward, the Committee are reviewing the first twelve months of our new Strategy and Vision and actively pursuing new links that we have established across the town.

The Society was formed 50 years ago and we hope to mark this with a special event once restrictions have been lifted.

Our thanks to all who have helped us celebrate our past, enhanced our present and are shaping our future.

Susan Amaku and Stuart Holland (Co-Chairs)

### Membership Secretary

Chris Holland has given notice of her intention to step down from the committee at the AGM. Our thanks go to her for undertaking the valuable role as membership secretary. Anyone interested in joining the committee can be co-opted as an interim measure.



## Treasurer's Report

The year to end of Feb 2021, produced another surplus (like the previous year) for the Society. The funds however do include £3000 which have to be spent on specific items. A large saving this last year is due to members receiving electronic newsletters and this is to be encouraged. The Society is in a healthy financial situation. Thanks to Peter Barnes for auditing the accounts.

### Harrogate Civic Society

Income & expenditure account 2020/2021  
12 Months to 28th February 2021

Balance sheet as at 28th February 2021

	2020/21	2019/20
<b>Income</b>		
Membership	£2,523.00	£2,896.00
Gift Aid	£429.25	£594.00
Bank Interest	£217.28	£328.00
Donations	£80.00	£0.00
Events	£0.00	£0.00
Spitfire Plaque donations	£700.00	£0.00
Restricted grant from HBC	£0.00	£2,000.00
Mike Hine Legacy	£1,000.00	£0.00
Gain on sale of VG Books	£0.00	£20.00
Creditor rescinded	£62.00	£0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£5,011.53</b>	<b>£5,838.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administration	£146.99	£725.00
Insurance	£336.16	£336.00
Subs to other societies	£70.00	£132.00
Newsletters	£229.29	£1,228.00
Events	£145.00	£89.00
Plaques	£1,035.60	£486.00
HODS brochure	£0.00	£0.00
Donations & Gifts	£27.99	£50.00
Legal Expenses	£0.00	£0.00
IT	£177.42	£0.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£2,168.45</b>	<b>£3,046.00</b>
<b>Excess (deficit) of income over expenditure</b>	<b>£2,843.08</b>	<b>£2,792.00</b>

	2020/21	2019/20
<b>Assets</b>		
Fixed Assets	£0.00	£0.00
Current Assets		
Cash	£4,820.48	£3,523.12
HBC restricted Grant	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Mike Hine Legacy	£1,000.00	
<b>Current Account Total (Yorkshire Bank)</b>	<b>£7,820.48</b>	<b>£5,523.12</b>
<b>Savings Account Total (Trustee Bank)</b>	<b>£20,266.26</b>	<b>£20,048.98</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£28,086.74</b>	<b>£25,572.10</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	£0.00	£328.44
Cheques to be cashed	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£328.44</b>
<b>Net Worth</b>	<b>£28,086.74</b>	<b>£25,243.66</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in net worth</b>	<b>£2,843.08</b>	<b>£2,792.00</b>

Auditor's Signature :

Date :

*James*  
PETER BARNES  
28 June 2021

## An event in September

On Sunday 26 September at 2.00 pm.

We are arranging a guided walking tour of Pannal lead by Anne Smith (journalist, author of seven books, four of them on Pannal, past chair of HCS and founder and first chair of the Friends of Valley

Gardens). We will meet at St Robert's Church. This is a level walk, with plenty of stops and will take 1 to 1.5 hours. We are very grateful to members, like Anne, who help us open our eyes to what is on our doorstep.

More information in the next newsletter.

### Contact us:

General matters .. .. info@harrogatecivicsociety.org

Membership queries.. .. membership@harrogatecivicsociety.org

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