

## Harrogate Civic Society History Group: Report to Society AGM 29 March 2022

The History Sub-Group was formed in the Spring of 2020 with a remit 'To research, record, and communicate the history of Harrogate to the people of the town, visitors and the wider public'. Membership from the outset has been Nigel McClea (Chair), Chris Dicken, Paul Jennings and Terry Williams. We report to the main Civic Society Committee.

Achieved to date:

1. Society website (Chris). This has a dedicated History section with links to a brief history of the town; books on its history; and resources for its study. Articles have been added in a series called Down Your Street, so far covering six streets; on plaques in the town dedicated to women; and on the shop window displays of historic visitors. The group sees as important links with other groups interested in the town's history and accordingly their details are also provided and several such links have been forged.
2. New Park Heritage Centre: the Group has supported member Terry Williams's work here and the Society was present at the official launch of the Centre in 2021.
3. Group member Paul Jennings has worked with the European Spa Project which brings together historians working on several European spas.
4. Paul has also worked closely with Harrogate Museums and Arts on the exhibition 'Workers in Harrogate Spa'
5. Both Paul and Terry have given talks to Society members on aspects of their work. Paul contributed a guided walk to the HODs programme in September and at the Allotment Society event in August. Chris guided two plaques walks for HODS.

Work in Progress:

1. An event in conjunction with Harrogate Film Society for the showing of a film on the town's history (NM and PJ).
2. A Royal Steps Walk for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with Harrogate Dramatic Society (NM)
3. Supporting the Centenary of Harrogate Photographic Society (NM)
4. Working with Harrogate station and LNER for an exhibition and events for the anniversary of the new station (TW)
5. A school history competition (PJ)
6. Working with Harrogate Theatre on its archives (TW)
7. Working with the RAOB on an article on Grove House (NM and PJ)
8. Supporting the launch of Malcolm Neesam's new book *Wells and Swells* on the town's history to 1923, in April
9. Further additions to the website, including a new feature on Harrogate People (PJ)
10. Further talks on aspects of Harrogate's history, including Paul in October on Edwardian schooldays and to the next HODs events(PJ)

The group welcomes contributions to any of the above projects and new ideas from fellow Society members. Paul Jennings March 2022.