



HARROGATE  
Civic Society



# NEWSLETTER

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

August 2024



*The New Zealand garden at Valley Gardens. On page 6 we report on Harrogate's town twinning partners, including Wellington, NZ.*

## A big thank you to our members

We would like to thank members for helping us carry out the changes to the membership subscriptions that have taken place this year, involving a new, and hopefully simpler scale of fees and the new fixed renewal date of 1 May. We apologise for any inconvenience this process may have caused to some members during this transition and we look forward, as ever, to seeing as many of you as possible at our forthcoming events.

To any member who may not have got round to changing to the new renewal date, may we ask that you arrange to pay the appropriate subscription (£20 for individuals or £30 for joint membership) as soon as possible, preferably by asking your bank to set up a standing order.

Contact [membership@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:membership@harrogatecivicsociety.org) for help or any enquiries.

Our bank details are on page 16.

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*Please note that whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, no responsibility can be accepted should any losses be incurred. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily of the Harrogate Civic Society.*

David Siddans, Editor

## Heritage Open Days 2024

*We thank **Stella and Geoff Brown** for compiling this year's programme and for writing this article.*

September is coming and [Heritage Open Days](#) are back! From 6 to 15 September Harrogate will once again be part of England's largest festival of history and culture, and the unmistakable HODs pink bunting will be seen around the Harrogate area.

Supported by the Harrogate Civic Society, Heritage Open Days is a community event bringing residents and visitors together to share the glory of the area.

There will be 25 venues and events within the Harrogate area offering free entry over the 10 day festival. An eclectic mix of tours, talks, walks, exhibitions and buildings not normally open to the public mostly with experts on hand - all for free.

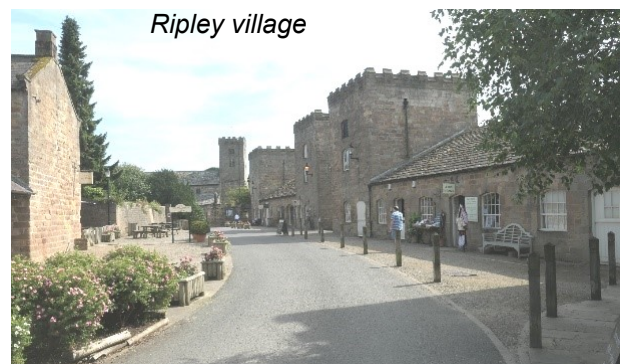
Enjoy the amazing view from the top of **Harlow Tower**. Back on ground level they also have Foucault's Pendulum on view. Exhibitions hosted at **Harrogate Library**, the **Odeon Cinema**, **Old Magnesia Well Pump Room** and **New Park Heritage Centre** show how buildings and communities have evolved within the town.



We have new walks and some so popular that they have returned for the 2024 festival: **Grove Road Cemetery**, **Heritage Plaques**, **Pannal Heritage Walk**, **New Park Heritage Walk**, **Ripley Historic Village Walkabout**, **Valley Drive and Valley Gardens**. Bilton Historical Society have organised a presentation on **Bilton's Past** covering 1100 years from Jorvik to Covid. All are hosted by experts from within our own HCS membership.

Join staff from the CWGC at **Stonefall** and **Grove Road Cemeteries** and learn about the men and women from across the world who fought and died in the two World Wars, never to return home.

Hidden Harrogate has many things to offer in 2024. Areas within buildings that are normally not open to the public will be bearing the pink Heritage Open Days banners – The **Masonic Hall** is offering guided tours which will include the Temple laid out for a ceremony. **Pateley Bridge Playhouse** has 'turn up' back stage tours. The **Harrogate Club** is opening its doors for us all to enjoy its Victorian splendour with a guided tour exploring its historic significance in the area.



Explore our historic churches from **All Saints Spofforth** with its possible links to Harry Hotspur to the fine Victorian churches in Harrogate centre: [Our Lady Immaculate and St Robert's Church](#), [St Peter's Church](#), [Wesley Chapel](#), and [West Park United Reform Church](#) - different denominations, all opened within the same decade, all within half a mile, but each with unique and distinctive features.

The [Nidderdale Museum](#) showcasing Dales life and [How Stean Gorge](#) offering an action-packed family day out have both waived their normal admission charges on certain days.

HCS supports Heritage Open Days and we need some volunteers to attend events as HCS ambassadors to support the event hosts, promote the HCS and hopefully increase membership. If you can spare a couple of hours between 6- 15 September please drop a line to [hods@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:hods@harrogatecivicsociety.org) with your name, dates available, and if you have any preference for which event you would like to assist at.



# The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust

*On 21 May, an audience of over 50 members heard Charlotte Simons and Sarah Lonsdale of the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust talk about the work of the Trust.*

Charlotte is the Senior Project Manager at the Trust and Sarah, who recently joined from the North York Moors National Park Authority, is the Project Manager (river enhancement).

The Trust covers a very wide area including the catchments of the Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse and associated tributaries. While Charlotte manages the establishment of partnerships across the whole region, Sarah's work focusses particularly on the Nidd and Swale catchments.



*River Nidd at Hampsthwaite*

Charlotte explained the many factors involved in river management, restoration and conservation. She described her role which involves coordination with all the businesses and organisations having a stake in the management of rivers, as well as an educational programme, working with schools and local communities.

River management includes dry weather measures as well as flood protection measures. These include returning parts of a river to a more natural winding course and other measures to slow the flow during high rainfall events. Restoration includes removing tonnes of invasive non-native species such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed.

Closer to home, Sarah described the work on the Nidd and its many tributaries, including Oak Beck, Bilton Beck, Hookstone Beck, Crimble Beck and the



*Charlotte Simons (left) and Sarah Lonsdale*

river Crimble. This has been subsumed within a project called iNidd which sets out to investigate all the issues affecting the Nidd and develop solutions, including, importantly, raising the funding to carry out the work. YDRT works alongside community groups such as the Nidd Action Group (NAG) to monitor pollution incidents and help restore and protect the river quality.

*David Clayden, Chair of the Nidd Action Group and Civic Society member, adds:*

NAG's two major water quality surveys in 2023 identified a number of Nidd Catchment pollution hotspots. The group will now focus on the sources of this pollution and its effects on wildlife habitats, working with volunteers to ensure that local concerns for improvement are met with appropriate actions.



*Taking a water sample at Hookstone Beck*

*Photo courtesy of NAG*

More information on the work of the YDRT can be found on their [website](#). More information on the Nidd Action Group can be found [here](#).



## Harrogate Contrasts - A Guided Tour

*Dr Paul Jennings led a group of members along Victoria Avenue and Tower Street on 5 June, a new tour designed to draw out the historic contrasts between these two adjacent streets in the centre of Harrogate.*

**Kevin Hales** reports:

Many of us associate Victoria Avenue with the library, and we may know Tower Street mainly for its two handy car parks. But on 5 June, 35 Harrogate Civic Society members learnt a great deal more about both, as they were led by Dr Paul Jennings on his brand new 'Harrogate Contrasts' history tour.

Both walks were oversubscribed. I joined the afternoon group and members' enthusiasm was such that we were assembled and ready to go three minutes early. The sun shone, the wind blew, and umbrellas were at the ready.

Paul began by explaining the origins of Victoria Avenue, including the 1906 Carnegie library. Crossing into Belford Road, we heard about the infirmary building, now a school, and facing it, Rogers' almshouses, originally for twelve widows or spinsters from Harrogate or Bradford of - as our guide delicately put it - 'high moral character'.

Tower Street contrasted starkly with Victoria Avenue in its development. We were told of long-gone pubs, often with rooms for visitors, transient labourers and coachmen, prostitution, fights, drunk and disorderly behaviour, back-to-back housing (rare in Harrogate), neat gardens that became parking spaces in front of terraces of workers' cottages and the coincidence of



today's budget Travelodge being on the site of yesterday's budget lodging houses.

Turning into West Park, the contrasts struck us again when we assembled outside the magnificent Belvedere mansion, then across to the former Congregational Church to inspect the twelve heads on the south wall, heroes of the Nonconformists of the time, from Bunyan to Wesley, and ending outside another splendid house, Vanderbilt Court.

Our hour together was relaxed and sociable, there was plenty of time to ask questions, and some members had anecdotes and insights to share, which added further to our knowledge.

None of us could have departed still of the view that the two roads are just a library and car parks!





## A visit to the Headingley Water Treatment Works - 3 July

*Thirteen members of the Civic Society met at Yorkshire Water's Treatment Works in Headingley for a fascinating presentation and tour of the treatment facility.*



**Jenny Moore** reports:

The scale of Yorkshire Water's operations and the size of the treatment works in Headingley were impressive. Starting in the Education Centre ....

We learnt a lot of statistics. YW manages 28,000 hectares of land to protect water quality from source to sea. There are 133 reservoirs across Yorkshire and 48 treatment plants serving 2million homes, 140,000 businesses (5 million customers) with 1.3 billion litres of water per day. This amounts to £1 billion of water bills per year! Reservoirs provide 45% of water, rivers 33% and ground water 22%.

YW also deals with waste water through sewers both small and very large. There are 611 waste water treatment works. These separate solids from liquids. The methane gas so released powers generators. The sludge is processed and can be spread on land and the liquid cleaned and returned to the water course.



YW is a private company and is tested and audited by many regulators all overseen by DEFRA.

We had an excellent informative and accessible presentation of the impurities in water and how they are eradicated. There are algae, bacteria, cyclops, daphnea, debris, herbicides, pesticides, peat and protozoa, all needing different treatments. These were explained and well illustrated from screening, flocculation, dissolved air flotation, rapid activity sand filter, ozone treatment, granular activated carbon filter, contact tank and finally into a service reservoir at the rate of 90 million litres a day.

We then had a tour round the works to view these processes in action - we'll never look at a cappuccino in the same way again!

The final presentation informed us of the 25-year plan for YW. No new reservoirs are planned but more water will come from river abstraction and groundwater. We all need to reduce usage and grey water systems need to be developed eg. by incorporating into new housing developments. Some of the pipes (which in the YW area would stretch twice round the world) have been in use since 1840, and more money needs to be invested into plugging leaks.

We ended with a little test of what we had learned which the majority passed with flying colours!

## Harrogate's Twin Towns

*A talk given on 25 June by Michael Newby, a trustee of Harrogate International Partnerships and vice-chair of Harrogate Civic Society.*

**Jenny Moore** writes:

When I was growing up in Harrogate in the 1950s I remember French Week and how exotic and foreign it seemed. I was reminded of this when looking at the beautiful photos that Mike Newby showed us to accompany his most interesting presentation on town twinning.

Harrogate has four international twinning partnerships all of which reached significant anniversaries last year, 2023: Bagnères de Luchon, 1953, Montecatini Terme, 1963, Wellington 1953 and Barrie 2013.

The twinning with Luchon sprang out of the post-war bilingual movement. Local headteacher and councillor Don Costelow was an enthusiastic supporter and Alfred Coste-Fleurel, mayor of Luchon was Secretary-General of the Association of the Bilingual World at the time. Luchon, like Harrogate is a spa and floral town. There were French fashion shows, films and exhibitions which of course were good opportunities to publicise the town. Over the years there have been reciprocal visits from dignitaries and organisations from both towns and Harrogate even had its own float in the annual Fête des Fleurs in Luchon.

Harrogate's second sister city is Wellington, capital of New Zealand. The link was formed through association of the two towns following the second World War. New Zealand aircraft crew were based in and around Harrogate and 23 who lost their lives are buried at Stonefall Cemetery, 4 of them from Wellington. There is a New Zealand garden within the Valley Gardens which celebrates the friendship and commemorates the dead. The garden has been refurbished twice, in 2010 and 2023, with more plants, carvings and sculptures from New Zealand.

Montecatini Terme in Italy is an Etruscan hill town and spa which twinned with Harrogate in the early 1960s. As with Luchon this twinning was aimed at promoting an exchange of language and culture. There were several Italian Weeks with fashion shows, concerts, exhibitions and even a waiters' race down Parliament Street! In 1966 the Italian ambassador paid a visit and attended a concert by the Hallé Orchestra conducted by Sir John Barbirolli.



*Luchon, France: the Harrogate float at the Fête des Fleurs*

Harrogate's final twin is Barrie in the province of Ontario, Canada. It is named after Sir Robert Barrie who commanded forces across the region during the Anglo-American war of 1812. His connection to the Harrogate district, through his marriage to Lady Julia Ingilby, led to the twinning of the two towns in 2013. He is buried at Ripley where there is a church window in commemoration.

Harrogate International Partnerships was formed in 2017 to provide a structure for developing awareness and opportunities for exchange visits and to provide support for twinning groups.

The success of twinning relies on the enthusiasm of individuals, all of whom are volunteers. If you would like to know more look at the website [www.harrogatetwinning.org](http://www.harrogatetwinning.org) or talk to our Civic Society committee members Michael Newby and Paul Fennimore.



# The Repurposing of West Park URC

A report by **Stuart Holland** on behalf of the restoration team

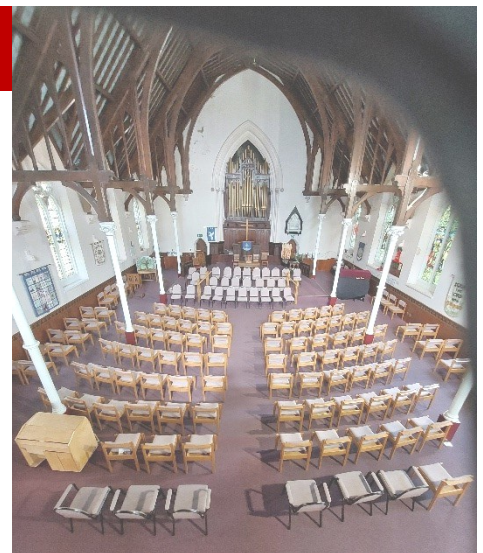
There is positive progress at West Park United Reformed Church to make use of the church as a centre for performing arts and as an attraction for visitors to Harrogate. Work is due to start shortly on creating a new worship area and refurbishing meeting rooms.

Work is also underway on producing 'The Harrogate Story' – a semi-permanent exhibition due to open in the spring of 2025.

A small team is working on a Christmas project with several local schools to decorate the church with re-cycled plastic water bottles. These will form a seasonal backdrop for December concerts including one by the Theatre Choir, led by Catherine Field-Leather.

The building will be open for Heritage Open Days with guided tours, historical records on display, an exhibition featuring the opening of the railway in 1862 and plans by the Victoria Park Development Company to link High and Low Harrogate. 1862 was also the year the church opened as a Congregational Church to serve growing numbers of visitors to the town.

Harrogate Male Voice Choir gave an exceptionally popular concert in June to help raise funds and this was supported by many members of the Society. We hope these will become regular events.



Above: Church interior ready for a concert by Harrogate Male Voice Choir.

Below: An example of display areas proposed for 'The Harrogate Story'



We are looking for volunteers to act as stewards during HODS week. If you would like to be involved in this, or any of our exciting events, or would like to become a Friend of the centre, please drop an email to [enquiries@westparkcentre.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@westparkcentre.org.uk).

## 2024 Allotment Show - 18 August

The Civic Society will be pleased, once again, to support the Harrogate and District Allotment Federation Show which this year takes place at the Sun Pavilion, Valley Gardens on Sunday 18 August.

Committee members and others will be on the Civic Society stall meeting and chatting to members and visitors. If this newsletter reaches you in time, please think about popping by.

*The Harrogate Civic Society stall at the 2023 show*





## Our latest coffee morning

The fifth in a quarterly series of casual coffee mornings was held on Monday 15 July, and over 30 members attended. We took over a spacious private room upstairs at the Everyman cinema in Station Parade, a new venue for us following the closing down in April of the Cosy Club in Cambridge Street.

Members popped in for a few minutes - or a couple of hours! - to catch up with familiar faces and to meet new ones, to share news (and perhaps some gossip!), and

to chat about the Society's activities and goings-on in Harrogate.

It was particularly pleasing that several new members were able to join what was an entirely informal and social event, with no speeches, announcements, presentations or other distractions to interrupt the lively chit-chat.

The staff at the Everyman made us all feel welcome, and we may well be back for the next coffee morning on Wednesday 16 October - details will be confirmed on the Society's website nearer the time.

**Kevin Hales**



## We are members of Civic Voice

We have recently confirmed our membership of Civic Voice which is the national charity for the civic movement in England, speaking up for civic societies across the country.

Its mission statement says:

*Civic Voice believes everyone has the right to live somewhere they can be proud of. Our vision is for a civic movement with a strong local presence and an influential national voice. We will be active on the national, city and local stage, working in partnership across the UK. Civic societies will perform at the level of the best today and the civic movement will reach more places and benefit more people from all walks of life.*

*As a national voice with a strong local presence we make a difference where it matters. You will find us lobbying in Whitehall and Westminster, campaigning with local volunteers, speaking out in the media, undertaking research, building partnerships and promoting civic pride .*

Current members across Yorkshire include Ilkley, Knaresborough, Leeds, Ripon, Wetherby and many other local societies.





## A Village called Pannal - a Talk by Anne Smith

*Anne Smith is long-time resident of Pannal, local historian, prolific blogger, and - amongst other accreditations - former chair of Harrogate Civic Society.*

*Kevin Hales summarises her talk, given on 24 July:*

School children 'digging for victory' led by Tom Wright, Pannal Old School headmaster; a faded black-and-white image of older girls cooking school dinner on a steaming stove while the younger ones studied the blackboard, all in the same classroom; a 1949 group photo of the 1st Pannal Boy Scouts, including a very young Mike Hine ('Mr Harrogate') and the elegant Rosehurst mansion, before its demolition in 1969.

These are just a few of the striking images, many unique and unpublished, that over 30 Civic Society members got a chance to see during a fascinating talk.



*Above: Pannal Memorial Hall 1990. Anne described how the new road to the left was built to replace the original route to Leeds Road via Station Road (extreme right).*

shops that existed when our speaker moved into the village. We were told of the dismay of body snatchers in the 1830s who dug up a cadaver from St Robert's churchyard, only to find it too decomposed to sell.

After viewing over fifty slides in a lively and fast-moving one-hour talk, members were able to collect a cup of tea and a biscuit and then be guided by Anne around parts of the graveyard and inside the church, asking questions and learning more on the way. Some were content just to take a seat outside in the balmy, humid, afternoon air and a few strolled off at the end to investigate some of the sites and buildings that had been covered in the talk.

The Civic Society is grateful to Anne for so generously sharing her knowledge and insights at this most informative and entertaining event, and to St Robert's church for kindly welcoming and hosting us.



Held in the chapter house of St Robert's church in the village, members were treated not to a formal history lecture, but to an intriguing and often amusing blend of our speaker's personal memories and anecdotes of Pannal life over six decades, and of some of the characters who have lived there. We also learnt much about Pannal's heritage buildings: many long gone, others remodelled, and some still standing and put to new uses such as the Oddfellows, now Memorial Hall.

We heard of Anne's efforts to obtain Harrogate's first tree preservation order in the village. We also heard of the mid-nineteenth century owner of the Bay Horse Inn choosing to have it closed down for being 'too rowdy' and we saw old images of some of the thirteen

*Below: a painting of Pannal Hall in its heyday (Oliver Pemsel 1977)*



## Events in Autumn

Please book all events via email to [events@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:events@harrogatecivicsociety.org)

Note that some events may be subject to limits on numbers.

Full details of these and other events can be found on the website

<https://www.harrogatecivicsociety.org/events>

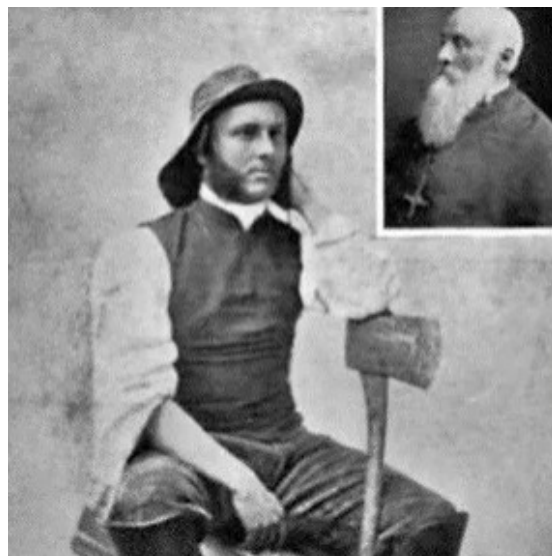
### TALK - John Sheepshanks, the third Vicar of St John's Church, Bilton

Dr Alan Gould, secretary and treasurer of the Bilton Historical Society, and Harrogate Civic Society member, will give a talk **at St John's Church, Bilton** on the life of John Sheepshanks (1834-1912), an austere High Church Anglican and the third vicar of the church.

John was a distant relative of the church's founder, William Sheepshanks, and a pioneering missionary during the Canadian Cariboo Gold Rush of the 1860s when he made epic journeys across North America, the Pacific and Asia. He had seventeen children, wrote several books and was noted for his pastoral work and attention to his clergy. He finally became Bishop of Norwich.

Teas and coffees will be available (for a donation to church funds) from 6.45pm. There will be a short informal tour of the church from 7.00pm and the talk will begin at 7.30pm.

**Wednesday 25 September,  
6.45 pm for 7.30 pm at  
St John's Church, Bilton**



### TALK - Paul Hatherley on Planning Harrogate

Paul Hatherley's talk will introduce the planning system for Harrogate and describe how this works by deciding where and what is built by allocating land for different types of development, setting planning policy to decide if new development proposals are acceptable and should get planning permission and ensuring there is the correct infrastructure and services in place to support that development.

The Harrogate District Local Plan will be replaced by a new county-wide local plan in 2028. The process leading up to the adoption date of that document will be described, including how the Society (and you) can be involved in the review process.

By the date of the talk we should have a better understanding of when a new town council will be set up and its functions - particularly how it will comment on new development in the town and if it intends to take on the task of producing a neighbourhood plan.

**Tuesday 22 October, 7 pm  
for 7.30 pm at St Paul's  
Church Hall, Belford Road**





## Events in Autumn (continued)

### TALK - Pharaohs, Royalty and Harrogate

*A history of Ogden jewellers in five generations*

After the over-subscribed private events for Harrogate Civic Society members at Ogden's James Street premises last September, we will be delighted to welcome Robert Ogden to give an illustrated talk.

In the early 20th century, James R Ogden was a charismatic figure and popular with his customers. He also rose to prominence in the jewellery industry and also followed his passion for the growing arts of archaeology and anthropology, becoming advising goldsmith to the British Museum and assisting the renowned archaeologists of the day including Leonard Woolley and Howard Carter. One of his more notable tasks was to value and test the gold work found in Tutankhamun's tomb.

Wine, juice, tea and coffee will be available from 7.00pm and the talk will begin at 7.30pm.

**Tuesday 19 November, 7 pm  
for 7.30 pm at St Paul's  
Church Hall, Belford Road**



### EVENT - Christmas Social 2024

Our December seasonal social gathering will take place at our usual venue, St Wilfrid's Church Hall starting at 2.30 pm.

Expect wine, soft drinks, tea, coffee and, of course, mince pies and Christmas cake.

More details will be given nearer the time.

There is some parking in the church car park (accessed from Duchy Road) and unrestricted parking on Duchy Rd and side roads. Please watch out for uneven surfaces in the car park .

**Sunday 15 December, 2.30 pm  
to 4.30 pm at St Wilfrid's  
Church Hall, Duchy Road**



# A Neighbourhood Plan for Harrogate

## Shaping our Future

*Readers may recall Paul Hatherley giving a short talk at the AGM in April about Neighbourhood Planning. Since then, much progress has been made on setting up the process. Well over 100 people have attended meetings or expressed interest.*

**Stuart Holland** writes:

Our first task has been to create a forum that will be acknowledged by North Yorkshire Council and, when approved by them, will become a 'Designated Forum'. Over 60 people have indicated their wish to be on the forum and they will meet four times a year to hear reports and make sure the Neighbourhood Planning process is on track.

Although the Civic Society and Zero Carbon Harrogate worked together to start the process, there is now a management committee of 12 to steer the way forward.

A meeting is scheduled with North Yorkshire Council for early September and we hope to apply to have the forum designated soon afterwards. We are also pleased that five of our local councillors have joined the forum and one is on the management group. All our local councillors are supporting the initiative.

In the next few weeks you should start to see publicity and information on the sub-groups that will be leading the evidence gathering stage of creating a plan. These will cover twelve planning areas (shown opposite) and we will work alongside the evidence gathering for the North Yorkshire Local Plan.



*The former Harrogate Borough Council offices on Kings Road. Time for a town council?*

### The twelve sub-groups

- General development principles
- Design
- Economic development and tourism
- Natural environment
- Built environment
- Recreation and open spaces
- Community facilities and infrastructure
- Climate change and flooding
- Housing
- Transport
- Retail and town centre
- Waste

If you would like more information, or would like to be involved in a sub-group or the Forum, please drop a note to

[localplanning@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:localplanning@harrogatecivicsociety.org)





# Planning Report: Knox Lane

*A planning application has been in the news recently for a housing estate on fields between Mill Gate and Knox Village.*

*Henry Pankhurst has submitted an objection on behalf of the Civic Society and has supplied this article.*

You may have seen news of an Appeal against refusal of the scheme which would see 53 dwellings built, if the Appeal is allowed. The Civic Society and many residents are dismayed at the thought.

The whole feeling as one enters Knox hamlet (or village - I am never sure which description to use) via Knox Lane, is one of tranquillity. Here, the road narrows to a country lane. With houses close to the road, which would be widened and the boundary wall broken to allow vehicular access, this would be lost.

Although the planning application in question dates from 2020 the planning history of the site, known as housing site H2, goes back a long way. It was evaluated in 2007 in the Council's Preferred Options Consultation (then known as site H100) when the Council conclusion was that '*Development would represent an unacceptable urban extension of the town into the countryside*'.

An evaluation of the site as an option suitable for housing in 2011 found that it failed in just about every aspect. Facilities were too far from the site and the special landscape area and tree preservation orders were noted as constraints.

*Below: deer running on the site at Knox Lane  
Photo: Jill Harrison*



Regarding any opinions on conservation and design, ecology and landscape they all came under the categories of having Adverse Impacts or High Adverse Impacts.

Moving on to the Draft Local Plan of October 2016, no part of site H2 was included for housing development. My question is: what happened over the next few months, that the site was listed in the Draft Local Plan Additional Sites Consultation of July 2017 for housing, with a potential capacity of 70 dwellings? (In 2011 although discounted for the Local Plan the capacity was calculated at 83 dwellings).

Unfortunately in the 2018 Publication Draft Local Plan, site H2 was included as a housing allocation (although reduced in size and with a potential yield of 52 dwellings). After the Examination In Public of the Local Plan the Schedule of Main Modifications of July 2019 carried site H2 forward with no substantial changes. The Harrogate District Local Plan was adopted in March 2020.

However, we were pleased that in spite of being an allocated housing site and recommended for approval by officers, H2 was refused planning consent in October last year by the planning committee. Due to these circumstances, the Council's legal officers advised that the Council should not fight the appeal. If the Inspector allowed the appeal, the appellant would be likely to ask the Council to pay their legal costs. It was left to an efficient and well organised group of residents to

present what I believe are strong arguments against the proposed housing development. Hundreds of objections were made to the application.

It is not unheard of that an appeal against refusal on an allocated site has been dismissed by an Inspector.

More information is available on the Civic Society website

# New Park: The Development of a Community

*Harrogate Library will be staging an exhibition from 9 September to 7 October on the way the community of New Park grew and developed in the 19th and early 20th century.*

*Harrogate Civic Society is pleased to support this event which includes two talks by HCS member Terry-Mike Williams.*



*The gas works coal yard beyond New Park School opened in 1906 and closed in 1957.*

Harrogate's origins are found in the development of the Spa Water industry which prompted the growth of numerous facilities needed for the visitors to the town. The opening in 1862 of the central railway station between the villages of High and Low Harrogate brought a surge in numbers of visitors to be catered for.

Following the introduction of gas lighting, visitors found that they could extend the day of their health regime by taking evening walks.

The production of gas for these lamps became the impetus for the development of New Park and the exhibition looks at how this community subsequently developed and thrived.

Shown in three parts, the exhibition shows how New Park provided many of the other facilities for the town of Harrogate as well.

1. The growth of a community.
2. The working life of New Park.
3. The social life of New Park.



*The parade moving down Skipton Road, New Park, celebrating the coronation of King George VI, May 1937*

## **Exhibition:**

**9 September - 7 October**

## **Talks:**

**7 October at 2.00 pm**

**4 November at 2.00 pm**

**At Harrogate Central Library**



# HARROGATE ON FILM

IT'S  
BACK!  
24TH SEPT

Join us for an amazing programme of archive footage - the people, places, major events, and everyday life in the historic town of Harrogate and neighbouring Knaresborough during the 20th century, specially curated and presented by the Yorkshire Film Archive.

Through a mix of amateur, professional, promotional and television collections, learn more about the film history of the area, including unseen cine club productions, news footage of the filming of drama 'Agatha', starring *Dustin Hoffman*, and rare footage of the opening of the Odeon Cinema, our venue for the event.



## FILM SHOWS

2:00pm & 7:00pm

Tuesday 24th September  
Odeon Cinema | East Parade  
Harrogate | HG1 5LB

Tickets:

[harrogatefilmsociety.org](http://harrogatefilmsociety.org)



HARROGATE  
Civic Society

# Summary of Forthcoming Events

Unless otherwise stated, please book by email to [events@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:events@harrogatecivicsociety.org)

<b>6 - 15 September</b> Times vary	<b>Heritage Open Days 2024</b> See page 2. For a full programme go to our website
Wednesday <b>25 September</b> 6.45 pm for 7.30 pm	<b>John Sheepshanks, third vicar of St John's Church, Bilton and 'A Bishop in the Rough'</b> A talk by Dr Alan Gould, Bilton Historical Society At St John's Church, Bilton Lane. Refreshments from 6.45 pm See page 10
Wednesday <b>16 October</b> 10 am to 12 noon	<b>Informal Coffee Morning</b> Venue to be confirmed
Tuesday <b>22 October</b> 7 pm for 7.30 pm	<b>Planning Harrogate</b> A talk by Paul Hatherley on the current and future plans for the town. See page 10
Tuesday <b>19 November</b> 7 pm for 7.30 pm	<b>Pharaohs, Royalty and Harrogate - A history of Ogden Jewellers</b> A talk by Robert Ogden See page 11
Sunday <b>15 December</b> 2.30 to 4.30 pm	<b>Civic Society Christmas Social</b> At St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Duchy Road. See page 11

## **Paying for events and membership** (as applicable)

By bank transfer: Name: Harrogate Civic Society. Sort Code: 05-04-54. Account: 167 465 95

Reference: please use your name, followed by the date DDMM (day/month) of the event.

By cheque: post to Mr C R Dicken, HCS Treasurer, 74 Otley Road, Harrogate, HG2 0DP (include event)

All details are on our [website](#) and are continuously updated. Full information and reminders will be issued via the newsletter, by email and via Facebook.

Occasionally talks will be advertised to our link groups and the general public. **Events are free for members** unless otherwise stated. Early booking is recommended.

## **Contact us:**

Chairman: Andrew Brown	..	chair@harrogatecivicsociety.org
General matters	.. ..	info@harrogatecivicsociety.org
Membership queries	.. ..	membership@harrogatecivicsociety.org
Event bookings	.. ..	events@harrogatecivicsociety.org

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