



Looking forward in 2022

... and dates for your diary

On the last page of this newsletter, you will find our programme of events for the year ahead. As well as talks on a wide range of subjects, given by leading and knowledgeable speakers, the programme includes guided visits and concludes with our regular Christmas social, which last year was a great success, despite the need for coronavirus precautions.

Uncertainty remains over the progress of the covid-19 pandemic, of course, but we remain optimistic that things will get better and that our meetings and visits will go ahead. Already we have had a good start with our first January meeting (see below). We will keep members informed as time goes on.

In this newsletter, we also look forward with articles by our partner organisations. The Harrogate in Bloom group describe their work to continue their award-winning floral displays which are so much part of the town's attraction for residents and visitors alike, and Yorkshire Agricultural Society look forward to the 2022 Great Yorkshire Show with an article on the wide-ranging activities of the Society.

We wish all our members a happy and healthy 2022 and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our events.

Live talks resume!

Our first talk of 2022 was held in the Harrogate Library on 18 January to a large - and mask wearing - audience.

See page 5 for a full report



A misty January morning on West Park Stray. Our next talk on 22 February is entitled 'A Stray for all Seasons'. See page 4 for more details.

Also in this issue

- Planning Report
- Debenhams development
- Christmas Social 2021
- Andrew Carnegie talk
- Yorkshire Agricultural Society
- Harrogate in Bloom
- Programme of events for 2022

*With coronavirus concerns leading to more demand for al fresco dining, many restaurants have been looking to provide extra space for eating and drinking in the fresh air. Some structures are more suitable for the Conservation Area than others and in this article **Henry Pankhurst** considers the planning implications of canopies.*

January planning report



Prince Albert Row, Station Parade

Several proposals came forward for **Cheltenham Crescent and Cheltenham Parade**. At 'Taverna' which used to be 'Casa Romana' a substantial timber construction has been erected to make a level seating platform with a fence. Although planning consent was applied for retrospectively it was withdrawn – I don't know what the planners think about it. One recent application is for the **Cattlemens Grill**, which is potentially a good scheme. Again the site needs levelling. It is proposed to be edged with a low stone wall topped by railings, so the style of construction is good for the Conservation Area, but part of the wall steps up so that the railings at that point are shorter in order to keep the tops at a consistent overall height. This seems rather odd. A good traditional canopy is likely to be built at **The Little Ale House**. It is very welcome when an applicant takes their cue from examples that are fitting for the Conservation Area.

The restaurant/bar on the corner of **Cheltenham Parade and Mount Parade (Cardamom Black)** has applied for a 'covered terrace to unused forecourt' You may recall that this restaurant in the old Empire Theatre used to be 'Pinochios'. We do not believe that what is proposed will make a positive contribution to the Conservation Area, although canopies are welcome in principle. Slatted walls of cedar at the ends, dark grey timber posts on short brick pillars and a flat roof pay no reference to traditional Harrogate Conservation Area canopies. We want canopies that we can be proud of. Maybe it will not get consent!

The bar on **King's Road** called **the Cold Bath Brewing Co.** unfortunately erected a heavy looking canopy without consent, constructed with very stout timbers but was given permission retrospectively. It is not in character with the Conservation Area and is painted grey which is so fashionable just now. Nearby on King's Road is **Gianni's Brio Restaurant**, where a

conservatory was proposed. We did not respond to this one as it seemed reasonable compared to some obviously poor examples.

Further out on **King's Road, numbers 132-136** are being renovated and converted to provide apartments on the upper floors with restaurant/bar use on the ground floor of 134-136 (the Ocean Building) which was the RAMUS seafood shop. The ground floor of 132 may possibly be retail but under the new Use Classes Order, Class E, it could be any one of a range of commercial, business and service uses. A canopy is proposed for the Ocean Building. The developer's intention is good. It would be similar to that at the nearby Regal Fruiterers in style and materials, but we were not content about the way it would fit with the existing front extension and line up with the building in general. We hope that this design problem can be solved. The developer is willing to look into it as he is also dealing with the worries of neighbours at the rear regarding overlooking.

A replacement structure for the **Pranzo Restaurant at 31-33 Cold Bath Road** was proposed, but it was not really a canopy as described on the application. It was a free standing structure, fully glazed with two large roof lanterns and made little reference if any to traditional canopies. However, the application has been withdrawn.

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The final canopy example I have to describe is at **Clarendon House**, which is on the **corner of Victoria Avenue and Station Parade**. A few years ago, this office block had a facelift in terms of recladding. The canopy was a retrospective application for the Istanbul Restaurant. We considered that the style, construction and materials were inappropriate for the Conservation Area. The uncharacteristic timber construction was bolted to the existing railings and does not complement the building to which it is attached. Although the Conservation Area Character Appraisal notes Clarendon House as a notable modern landmark building it acknowledges that

overall, it results in a negative contribution to the townscape. I do not think the canopy even complements this modern building, but nevertheless it has been given consent.



Clarendon House, frontage onto Victoria Avenue

Debenhams

No doubt some of you will be sorry to see the **Debenhams store on Parliament Street** closed – or perhaps not if you shop mostly online these days. Whatever your feelings about shopping, no doubt you will have a view on the existing building and what may replace it.

I would guess that you would not mourn the 1960's section that abuts the grand Westminster Arcade with its ornate tower.

The corner section was built in the 1920's and most of that part on Oxford Street dates from the early 1900's with more modern work going onto Union Street. Such an historic and prominent location in the conservation area requires the best

quality design, materials and workmanship.

We met the architects and developers in August last year and they gave us a generously detailed presentation of their intentions. They explained that although they had looked at re-use of the existing building/buildings, demolition and the creation of a new building was the only realistic way forward. I suggest buildings, the plural, because internally that is what it is. No doubt you remember the many changes in levels and complicated stairways. Due to this, any conversion would be problematic, to say the least. Difficulties also arise because of the considerable slope of the site. Personally I would be sorry to see the corner section go because of its historic value and its characterful presence in the Conservation Area. It seems the best quality features of the building are its gables, stonework and stained glass. Historic England and Save Historic England do not consider that sufficient justification has been put forward for demolition.

The proposal, which is now the subject of a planning application, is to have commercial use in the basement and on the ground floor. It is shown as two units. The uses would probably turn out to be any mix of restaurant/bar, retail and leisure. The five upper floors are destined for 50 apartments with 1, 2 or 3 bedrooms.

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There would be some limited car parking (15 spaces) on the upper ground floor, accessed from Union Street. We are content with the types of use. However, we are not content with the building as presented, although it is pleasing to see that modifications were made to the design of the largely glazed top floor as a result of our meeting with the developers plus other amendments before the application was lodged. The building is overall too

large and monolithic for its location on Parliament Street. We consider it very important that the Tower of the Westminster Arcade is given more 'freedom', being a listed building, and should be allowed to dominate. The replacement for the Debenhams building needs to be reduced in height by one or preferably two floors and the Parliament Street elevation articulated as three elements to reflect the context and the general pattern of historic property divisions on that street. As presented, the proposed building is overpowering.

Henry Pankhurst

The Civic Society Christmas Social 2021



In mid December about 50 Society members gathered at St Wilfrid's Parish Hall, on Duchy Road, for our annual Christmas social event. As the hall is associated with Harrogate's only Grade 1 Listed historic building the venue was appropriate. The high ceiling of the 1930's hall (with its unusual Lamella roof), and open doors, allowed members to feel comfortable in these strange times. Members also had the opportunity to purchase books on local history, many written by Society members and spent over £750, in some cases on books that are long out of print and in others on books just published (such as member Dr Paul Jennings' book *Working Class Lives in Edwardian Harrogate*). Dr Jennings also gave a short and entertaining talk on past Christmases (and very cold winters) in the town.



Report by Angela Fahy

Our next event: Tuesday 22 February

For well over 200 years, the Stray has provided the town with its unique character and a much treasured resource for recreation and exercise.

On 22 February, **Judy d'Arcy Thomson**, Chair of the Stray Defence Association will give a talk on the benefits of the Stray to the town, including reference to its spa heritage and history.

The talk will be given at St Paul's Church Hall at 7.30 pm.

Book via events@harrogatecivicsociety.org



Andrew Carnegie, a generous scot.

A capacity audience of 50 members attended Harrogate Library on 18 January for our first talk of 2022. Postponed from 2 years ago, Cllr Jim Clarke spoke to us about Andrew Carnegie and the libraries he endowed, especially Harrogate Library.

Born in Dunfermline, Scotland, Carnegie emigrated aged 12 to the USA with no real formal education but he had, as a child, been allowed to use the home library of another Dunfermline resident and this made him realise the value of public access to libraries.

He became one of the richest men in the world, and set about (amongst other philanthropic work) giving money to towns world wide ,but mostly in the UK and the USA, for the building of libraries. Over 2,000 were built, 660 of those in the UK and Ireland..

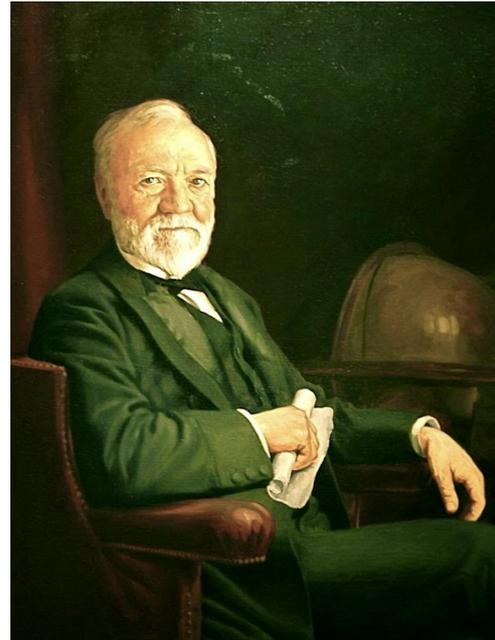
The first was built in his home town of Dunfermline. By 1906 he had paid for the Harrogate Library, and the Skipton Library. These are the only Carnegie libraries in North Yorkshire, although Keighley Library was the first in England.

Carnegie had strict rules regarding the requirements for a library. The need had to be demonstrated and the town had to provide the site. The Council had to pay staff and maintain the buildings with public funds used to run it. Access to the library had to be free.

Harrogate Library has at times been under threat, and there were proposals by North Yorkshire County Council in 2004 to turn it into a 'Discovery Centre'! Fortunately, these plans were opposed, including by Cllr Clark, and then dropped. Instead, money was invested in a major modernisation of the library.

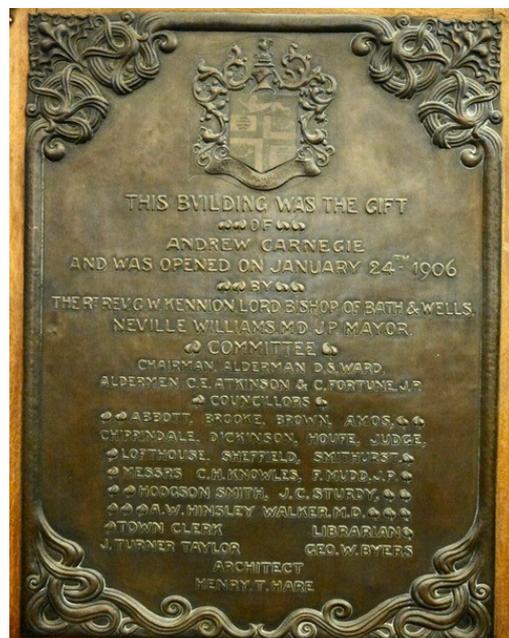
As originally conceived by the town fathers, the current library building was to form part of a much larger building (a 'Municipal Palace') that would have included a Town Hall. This was planned to be built in the library gardens area but we only have the hint of its grandeur in the fine façade of the Library.

Angela Fahy



Above: Andrew Carnegie 1835 - 1919
(National Portrait Gallery)

Below: plaque commemorating the opening of Harrogate Carnegie Library in 1906 (situated inside the library)



Yorkshire Agricultural Society

We are grateful to Jo Francisco, the PR Manager for the Yorkshire Agricultural Society for providing this article.

The Yorkshire Agricultural Society is best known for organising the Great Yorkshire Show in July, but perhaps it's lesser known for the work it does throughout the rest of the year.

A registered charity founded in 1837, YAS was established to promote agriculture in Yorkshire and its first objective was to run a major agricultural event.

The Great Yorkshire Show was held the following year in 1838 and in modern times, it has regularly attracted more than 130,000 over three days. In 2021, the show became a four-day event for the very first time due to Covid restrictions. This move was so successful, it has become a permanent fixture for the Show which will this year run from Tuesday 12 July to Friday 15 July.

In the early days, the Great Yorkshire Show would move around the county until 1950 when YAS purchased the 250-acre Showground in Harrogate.

The first show was held in Harrogate in 1951 and the site remains its home to this day. The Great Yorkshire Show is now one of the biggest agricultural shows in the UK and it continues to evolve with the times, while keeping farming firmly at its heart.

YAS's charitable aims include: supporting and promoting agriculture, advancing and encouraging agricultural research, advancing and encouraging protection and sustainability of the environment, as well as other charitable activities.

As part of this remit, YAS has recently taken over management of two national membership organisations: the Farm Retail Association and British Christmas Tree Growers Association. The BCTGA runs an annual competition which sees the winning grower of an annual competition to supply the Christmas tree for No10 Downing Street – no less!



To help finance YAS's objectives, it was decided to develop the Showground with first-class facilities which could be operated commercially. The first project was Pavilions of Harrogate which was built in 1996. This is where the Royal Family is entertained during the show and for the remaining 362 days of the year, it is a successful weddings, events and conference venue. The Yorkshire Event Centre has had a recent £11m refurbishment. Fodder now supports over 430 Yorkshire producers, and the Harrogate Caravan Park is attracting more and more holidaymakers since opening in 2014.

All profits from these businesses fund the work of YAS which includes:

EDUCATION

Springtime Live – Annual event for families with young children. Hands-on activities such as sausage roll making, mini digger rides, meeting animals and exotic insects, crafts – Saturday 2 April 2022

Countryside Days – Each June attracting 6,000 Key Stage 2 children who get to meet animals and enjoy hands-on workshops about farming, food and the countryside – 14-15 June 2022

Farm to Fork visits – Matching local schools with farms to provide educational visits that tell the story of food from field to fork.

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Apple Day – held in October, 150+ school children visit our orchard on the showground to celebrate National Apple Day.

GRANTS – Awarded on a case-by-case basis for relevant projects that support/promote agriculture and allied industries, advance agri research and encourage environmental sustainability.

Each year we sponsor a Nuffield Farming Scholar to travel the world to research a key agricultural issue.

Bursaries are offered by Future Farmers of Yorkshire for places at the Oxford farming conferences, NFU Conference, Groundswell, the RABDF entrepreneurs training programme and more.

NETWORKS

Future Farmers - 1000+ progressive farmers, vets and industry supporters, giving them a voice, platform for debate and idea-sharing.



A royal visit to the Great Yorkshire Show 2021

Farmer Scientist Network - farmers, scientists and representatives of government bodies who work with crop and livestock sectors to find scientific and technological solutions to problems. Seeking to underpin agricultural innovation.

Yorkshire Rural Support Network - connects charities and bodies that work with and support the farming community. It delivers free farmer health checks at auction marts, hosts Farmer Community Lunches to tackle social isolation and runs the Women in Farming Network to support rural businesswomen, culminating each year with a gathering in October.

Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network – brings together people from rural communities, businesses and the food and farming industries to identify and feedback local issues and concerns to government.

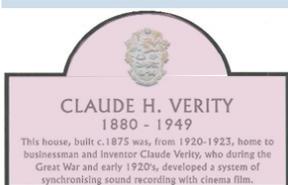
YAS may be steeped in tradition but the team is passionate about continuing to build and drive the business forward so we can do more of our charitable work for the good of farming families and the agricultural industry.

The charitable work of YAS in helping farmers and supporting agriculture is close to the team's heart and with 100% of profits from all businesses funding this work, it's a rewarding job to do.

So, whether you are booking a wedding with us, hosting a conference, enjoying a stay in the caravan park or a bacon butty in Fodder, you are helping us to do this work. Thank you!

Our next plaque

... with an appeal for funding



Our next plaque is to commemorate the work of Claude H Verity who, tucked away in his laboratory in Harrogate, developed a system of

The cost of the plaque is in the order of £900.00

and the Civic Society have already pledged a contribution of £200.00 to open the appeal for funding.

If any members would like to contribute to this plaque, you are invited to send your donation to:

*The Harrogate Civic Society
Sort Code : 05-04-54
Account Number : 16746595*

Please add Claude Verity Plaque as the reference.

It is hoped to unveil the plaque at the home of the inventor in East Park Road during the summer.

Continuing our series of articles from one of our partner organisations

Harrogate in Bloom



We are grateful to Pam Grant, President of Harrogate in Bloom, for providing this article.

The Harrogate in Bloom Group, following two years of no major competition for the town, is excited at the prospect of hopefully making an entry to the 'small city' (even though Harrogate is a town) category of Yorkshire in Bloom. All entries involve Team Harrogate which comprises the local community groups working together to enhance the floral and environmental aspect of Harrogate. Achieving success in this bid is the only way to attain an invitation to enter the national Britain in Bloom competition of 2023.

The group is confident of being able to make a strong entry bearing in mind the involvement of all the local community groups, and especially the involvement and enthusiasm of the BID within the town centre.

Our concern is that the RHS may well adjust the marking system and award a higher proportion of marks to environmental and biodiversity issues, which of course are well addressed by Team Harrogate members, Horticap and the Biodiversity Action Group, but unfortunately are difficult to address in the town

centre, although we can boast electric buses! Chris Beard is currently in dialogue with the RHS concerning this matter as we feel that many of the towns and cities will have the same opinion as we do in Harrogate. The effort of 'in bloom' in Harrogate is not only to make Harrogate a pleasant place to live and work but also to promote local business and especially promote tourism, thus making the town vibrant!

Harrogate in Bloom is just about to announce the results of the Children's Art Competition. Local children working at Key stage 1 and 2 levels were invited to design a flower bed to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and the winning design is to be planted in the Valley Gardens.

Rogers' Alms Houses was awarded a gold medal in the Britain in Bloom competition of 2019.

In this photo, we see (left to right) : James Ronald and Bill Cordingley (Britain in Bloom Judges, Stuart Holland (Civic Society), Pam Grant (Harrogate in Bloom) and Kate Dawson (Harrogate Borough Council).



Programme of Events 2022

The following events are planned for 2022. All details are on our website and continuously updated. Full information and reminders will be issued via the Newsletter, by email and via Facebook.

Talks will be advertised to our link groups and the general public. They will be free for members unless otherwise stated. There will be a £5.00 head charge for non-members. Early booking is recommended. If an event is oversubscribed you may not be able to attend if you have not booked in advance

Unless otherwise stated, events will be held at ST. PAUL'S URC HALL, Belford Road, just off Victoria Avenue, starting at 7:30pm.

Booking by email is recommended events@harrogatecivicsociety.org

- 22 FEBRUARY** ***A Stray for all Seasons*** - a talk by Judy d'Arcy Thompson of the Stray Defence Association.
- MARCH (tbc)** Guided introduction to ***Dive In*** at the Mercer Gallery
- 29 MARCH** **Our AGM**, after a talk on ***The History of Harrogate Brass Bands*** by Gavin Holman.
- 26 APRIL** Malcolm Neesam will be introducing his newly published book, ***Wells and Swells***, the second part of his major history of Harrogate.
- 31 MAY** ***The New Unitary Authority*** - Graham Swift, Deputy Leader of Harrogate Borough Council, will be giving us an overview of the impending changes in local government in North Yorkshire,
- 10 JULY** ***Behind the Scenes at the Great Yorkshire Show*** - a booked event with limited numbers. We shall be given a guided tour of the Great Yorkshire Show during its setup period. *Numbers restricted – early booking advised.*
- 9 – 18 SEPT** **Heritage Open Days**
- SEPTEMBER (tbc)** **A garden visit** (awaiting finalisation)
- 25 OCTOBER** ***Schooldays in Edwardian Harrogate*** - a talk by Dr Paul Jennings
- 29 NOVEMBER** ***The Harrogate Convention Centre: its purpose and future*** - a talk by the Centre Director, Paula Lorimer (to be held at the Centre)
- DECEMBER** **Christmas Social for 2022** (details to follow)

Contact us:	General matters	info@harrogatecivicsociety.org
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	Event bookings	events@harrogatecivicsociety.org

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