



## HARROGATE CIVIC SOCIETY

# e-NEWSLETTER

10 April 2020

**H**ow things have changed in the last few weeks! This special edition of the newsletter has been produced to keep members up to date with what is happening with the Civic Society during the present health crisis.

As you will have read in the last newsletter, we had a lot planned for this year. We were working towards a new vision for the Society, so we are particularly disappointed

in the delay but recognise, of course, the overriding seriousness of the current situation.

Because normal printing and distribution is not feasible while the emergency is in place, this edition is being distributed by email only. If you are aware of any member who may not be able to receive it this way, please let us know.

We hope you are all staying well and coping with the isolation.



### Visit to Allerton Waste Recovery Park

This took place on 27 February and turned out to be the last event we managed to put on. A group of 15 members had a fascinating tour which provided an insight into the scale of the operation - at a time when we need to be increasingly conscious of the impact on the environment of what we consume and what we dispose of. We thank Amey, who operates the plant and organised the lecture and guided tour.

### Away day cancelled

Our away day, planned for 14 March at Harlow Carr, was the first event to be cancelled. About 18 members were due to meet to discuss the future of the Society with an experienced facilitator. We regard this as an important activity and intend to reconvene the event at the earliest opportunity. Meanwhile ideas are being exchanged and members are invited to contribute if they wish. [info@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:info@harrogatecivicsociety.org)



### Our other planned events

Very sadly we have had to postpone the talk by Jim Clark on **Andrew Carnegie**, programmed for 31 March. We have also cancelled for the time being the tour of the **British Library** on 21 May, and the

talk on 25 June at 20 Park Parade on the artist **Bernard Evans**. We know many will be disappointed, but we hope to re-schedule the events when things get back to 'normal'.

## Plaques: ongoing work

On Lloyds Bank in town you may notice a plaque, fixed fairly high up. This is the site of the original **Bettys**, opened in July 1919. The plaque was due to be unveiled at the end of March but the ceremony had to be cancelled. There will be an official unveiling later this year.



A plaque has also been manufactured in honour of the artist **Jean-Georges Simon** who lived and worked in Ramsgill and Harrogate for many years.

An exhibition of his work was due to open at the Mercer Gallery later this month followed by an unveiling but of course has been cancelled.

We are currently working on an exciting new plaque – actually a reproduction – to commemorate the generosity of the town in 1941 raising money to buy a **Spitfire aircraft**. More about this in our next newsletter.

**MEANWHILE** don't forget that you can have a virtual walk around town by following any one of the **trails** on our special website:

[www.harrogateplaques.org](http://www.harrogateplaques.org) . This month we recommend the High Harrogate trail which is 3.1 miles long starting at the Odeon cinema.

## Planning

Henry Pankhurst is continuing to closely monitor planning applications as they are advertised or notified to us as consultees. Applications continue to come in to Harrogate Borough Council in much the same numbers as before. As usual, most of them will be determined by the Chief Officer under delegated powers, but major applications should be determined at planning committee where objectors have a right to speak.

In either case, it is difficult to see how site visits and proper consultation can take place whilst observing the 'stay at home' instructions from the Government.

Government guidance has been issued which seeks to ensure that the planning system continues to function, albeit with 'innovative' arrangements. Currently we wait to hear how the Council intend to progress applications under the current 'lock down' situation.

## This year's AGM

Normally our Annual General Meeting is held in June or July, but this year it will inevitably have to be postponed to a date later in the year. All members will, of course, be notified in good time of any new arrangements.



## Virtual meeting

The monthly meeting of the Civic Society committee took place as usual on the first Monday in April, but this time using Zoom virtual conferencing. Although we had a quorum and discussed a full agenda, two or three members were unable to take part and we will review the way this might work in the future, if necessary.

## Keeping in touch

You can continue to keep in touch with us via the usual email addresses:

General matters .. .. [info@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:info@harrogatecivicsociety.org)

Membership queries .. [membership@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:membership@harrogatecivicsociety.org)

*If you are aware of any member who may not be able to receive this email newsletter, please let us know.*