



Harrogate War Memorial 1923 - 2023

A major series of events will be taking place to mark the centenary of Harrogate's War Memorial. It is not only a landmark feature of the townscape of Harrogate but more importantly represents a truly significant part in the history of the town and its people.

100 years

1163 names

1 Major exhibition

14 Illustrated talks

2 Film screenings

Events will run from 1 September through to 12 November.

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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



A message from our Chair



As you read this newsletter you will see just how busy the committee and sub-groups are, not only promoting the Society, but fulfilling our aims to celebrate our past, enhance our present and shape our future.

It was good that so many of you popped into our first coffee morning where members have a chance to get to know each other (*see below*).

September sees Heritage Open Days (HODs) up and running again with exciting new participants this year. During HODs week we will be unveiling a plaque remembering Michael Rennie, the world renowned actor. Later that month we will learn about the latest developments at Harlow Carr followed by an evening in October at our Carnegie Library.

I am really looking forward to 22 November when we are host to Sarah Holloway, the national programme manager for HODs, talking about 'Heritage and Doorstep Discoveries'. We are delighted to be joined that evening by the Harrogate and the Dales National Trust Association. Not everyone realises that HODs is supported by the National Trust.

Last week I was delighted that Charlotte Holroyd-Smith, a student at Harrogate Ladies College, was presented with first prize in the Harrogate Civic Society Essay Competition. She received a £50 cash prize and two books written by the late Malcolm Neesam.

That same week I was asked by NYC if the Civic Society would comment on the latest Station Square proposals. Whatever your views on the Station Gateway scheme, it is a privilege for the Society to be consulted in this way. We have also been asked to propose the dates and events that can be incorporated into a time line, set into the new stone paving of Station Square.

None of this would happen without the hard work and support of many of our members but, like all organisations, we constantly need new blood, enthusiasm and ideas in our committee and sub-groups. If you have time and would like to share in our work, please get in touch, we really do need more volunteers!

I nearly forgot the Allotment Show on 20 August where we will have a stand – please come and see us there.

Stuart Holland

Social coffee mornings



Over 30 members of the Civic Society enjoyed an informal coffee morning on 19 July. It was held at Cosy Club on Cambridge Street, who were most hospitable, providing a private area with comfy seats and some free samples of their food!

It is hoped that this type of event will be repeated several times each year alongside more formal talks and outings. An opportunity to meet and chat with other members, make suggestions for future events and enjoy the coffee!

Jenny Moore

Commemorating the Centenary of Harrogate's War Memorial

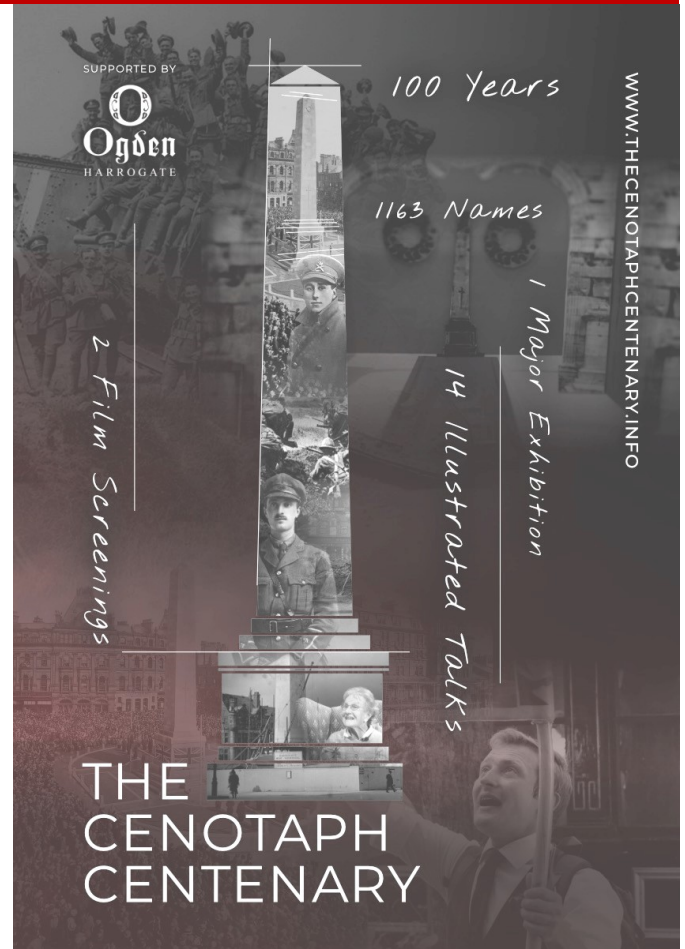
Lynne Mee writes on behalf of the War Memorial Centenary Project Group, which includes representatives of the Civic Society.

This year marks 100 years since Harrogate's war memorial was unveiled by Henry Lascelles, 6th Earl of Harewood on 1 September 1923 in a ceremony apparently witnessed by 10,000 spectators. The memorial has stood in Prospect Square for nearly a century proudly recording the names of 1163 local men and women who lost their lives in two world wars. To mark this milestone, a project has been launched to match those names with their stories.

The War Memorial Centenary Project Group, which started planning in January, is chaired by HCS member Nigel McClea. He added 'We have an amazing group of volunteers from a number of local groups and organisations who have in my opinion put together a magnificent programme of events. This will not only help to make sure our war dead are never forgotten but also help us learn more about the war memorial's structure plus its social history and its importance to Harrogate.'



The centenary centrepiece is a free multi-media immersive exhibition '**More than a name on a Memorial**' being staged in the magnificent historic surroundings of West Park United Reformed Church (URC). It is being designed and constructed by local historian Terry-Mike Williams who was responsible for the recent highly successful *The Story of Harrogate's Railways*. The



The Centenary poster

exhibition also draws on the herculean efforts of another local historian Graham Roberts. All 1163 names have been researched by Graham and much has been discovered and recorded. This includes military units, war records, photographs, cause of death, date of death and place of burial, although more than 300 of the First World War names inscribed have no known grave. This ongoing research will form the core of the exhibition.

The Project Group would value our active support in spreading the word of all that is happening to commemorate the War Memorial centenary. An eight page illustrated programme and details of the exhibition and how to book for the ancillary events is available at thecenotaphcentenary.info

Please do help with promoting this landmark event.

Heritage Open Days: 8 - 17 September 2023

Kevin Hales, a member of our Events Group responsible for organising Harrogate's Heritage Open Days events, writes:

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Harrogate will once again be playing a prominent role in the national **Heritage Open Days** (HODs) festival, which runs this year from **Friday 8 to Sunday 17 September**.

Preparations are in full swing, and the **Harrogate Civic Society** has been working with many different heritage sites, organisations and religious establishments in the town, along with local heritage enthusiasts, to build a varied and interesting series of events. Twenty are already registered.

Highlights to date include: Ogden of Harrogate, welcoming visitors to an exhibition and talk at its James Street premises, and new heritage walks led by local experts in each of Pannal, Ripley Village, and Valley Gardens. We are proud to include in our HODs programme, for local residents and visitors from far and wide to attend, two important talks that form part of the town's extensive **War Memorial Centenary** commemorations programme.

There will once again be events at the Harrogate Club and at the Library, also in Bilton and New Park and at several of Harrogate's most impressive churches along with guided walks around the Heritage Plaques harrogateplaques.org and through the Duchy estate. For those who wish to explore a cemetery, or admire local art, there will be something for them and anyone who's keen on climbing towers will have two (so far) to choose from.

Other events are in the pipeline and key details will be in a timetable guide on the Civic Society website (see *box below*). The fullest and most up-to-date details of all HODs events across England will, as

usual, be on the national website heritageopendays.org.uk/. To find out about those in Harrogate town and nearby just type **Harrogate** into the **Keywords** searchbox and all will be revealed.

If you'd like to volunteer to help with our HODs events, do please drop a line to events@harrogatecivicsociety.org

Some organisers need and welcome support on the day from Civic Society members, and lending a hand is a great way for us to show our appreciation to Harrogate's heritage ambassadors who open up their sites and buildings or give talks or walks - all for free - and who therefore make HODs such a successful festival here.

Lastly, a date for your diaries. Sarah Holloway, the national programme manager of Heritage Open Days, coordinated by the National Trust, has kindly offered to visit Harrogate to give a special talk and presentation to Civic Society members on the evening of Wednesday 22 November. We expect the venue will be West Park United Reformed Church, itself an important heritage building, and we will be welcoming the local National Trust association's members to attend, along with all organisers of HODs events in Harrogate this September. Full details will be on the HCS website later.

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And very lastly a little quiz. In fact so little you may need a magnifying glass! The collage here includes images relating to 18 of the HODs events so far registered. Show off your knowledge of Harrogate and the HODs programme by seeing how many you can identify. If you've got all 18, or *almost* 18, email your list to events@harrogatecivicsociety.org and the sender of the best answer will be announced at the next Society talk and in the next newsletter.

Full details can be found in a timetable guide on the Civic Society website which will be live from early August and updated regularly, so check here for the very latest information:

harrogatecivicsociety.org/heritage-open-days-hods.

Heritage Open Days 2023

Just some of the attractions in this year's programme:



Our next event: Wednesday 16 August

Our next event will be a private visit to Washburn Heritage Centre, attached to Fewston Church. We will view the exhibition, have a talk on the Fewston Assemblage (a rare collection of 19th century remains and artefacts excavated there by Durham University) and enjoy tea, cake and sandwiches (the quality of the baking, by volunteers, is known far and wide). There will be a charge of £12 per person for the afternoon tea.

Book via events@harrogatecivicsociety.org

See our website for further details on this and all our forthcoming events.



The Harrogate Stray - Should it be Registered as Common Land?

On 6 June, North Yorkshire Council gave notice of an application by the Open Spaces Society to register the Harrogate Stray under the Commons Act 2006.

*The Civic Society has submitted an objection to this application, and **Henry Pankhurst** summarises the situation below:*

Many of you will be aware that the Stray is protected by a Local Act of Parliament – the Harrogate Stray Act 1985.

This Act was successfully passed with considerable effort and input from the Harrogate Civic Society (then the Harrogate Society) and co-operation with Harrogate Borough Council. A lot of the work was done by our sorely missed committee member Ian Brown.

The Stray is probably the most valued asset in our town. No local resident would want to see it come to any harm or be reduced. This was evident in 2016/2017 when the Council issued a consultation to gain the public's views on use of the Stray. This arose when the Council considered changing the Stray Act to allow greater flexibility in its use. Was the Act too strict?

The consultation had a series of sensible questions, the answers from the public providing a resounding NO to any changes in the carefully drawn Act.

You may have seen notices around the Stray recently and wondered what they meant. A worrying situation has arisen. The Open Spaces Society (OSS) is intent

on bringing the Stray within the Commons Registration Act 2006.

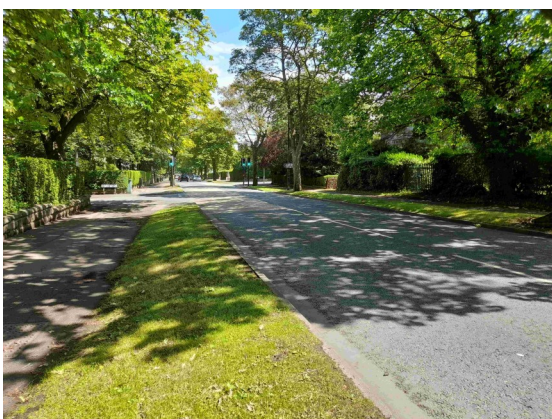
The Stray was previously exempted from the 1965 Commons Act, due to its protection under our Local Stray Act. An area of 200 acres had in effect been designated Common Land since 1770, although the exact boundary was not finalised until 1778. The 2006 Commons Act made it possible to reverse exemptions arising from the 1965 Commons Act.

We do not favour having two Acts of Parliament protecting the Stray, as it would provide no additional protection, but more likely cause confusion. Although there may have been occasional differences of opinion in interpreting the Stray Act, imagine the potential confusion caused by having TWO Acts. I doubt that North Yorkshire Council would relish having time consuming and expensive legal problems to resolve! If the Commons Act also applied, would the Stray Act rules remain as strong?

There are small differences between the official Duchy of Lancaster Stray map and the maps provided by the OSS. The Stray map cannot be changed even if exchange land is required due to road and footpath building etc.

So we have sent an objection to the Commons Registration officer at North Yorkshire Council. Confusion must be avoided!

Several areas of land beyond the well known '200 acres' are designated as Stray Land, including Swan Road (below right) and Otley Road verges north-east of Cold Bath Road (below left).



Visit to Grove Road Cemetery: Sunday 11 June

On what was a very warm June day, a group of around twenty-five members and guests were given a guided walk around Grove Road Cemetery.

Paul Jennings writes:

My guided walk was inspired by Malcolm Neesam's researches, supplemented with my own work on the burial registers from 1864 to 1920.

The Cemetery was opened in 1864 in what was then a largely unbuilt area, after concern that the existing one at Christ Church was becoming overcrowded. The very first burial was of a seven-year-old girl. Sadly, infants and small children made up a large proportion of those interred over the years.

After looking at the white marble memorial to the First World War dead of Bilton, recently restored and relocated from the Methodist Chapel opposite the Cemetery, we then visited a wide variety of graves. These included some of the town's most influential citizens, like Richard Ellis and George Dawson, both builders responsible for some of Harrogate's loveliest developments and others who made their mark, like the historian William Grainge or John Farrah of the toffee business.

We also took in less well-known figures, some of whom reflected Harrogate's attraction to people from other lands, like the ex-slave Thomas Rutling of Tennessee, who made his home here after touring

Europe with the famous Fisk University Jubilee Singers, German band leader Otto Schwarz who collapsed and died at the station and the Italian Crolla family who similarly entertained with their barrel organ.

The dead of two world wars are also represented and we saw several Commonwealth War Graves and a monument to Donald Bell, who won the Victoria Cross and whilst buried in France is remembered in Harrogate. Also Alfred Bruce, a former pupil of Harrogate Grammar School who drowned along with five other soldiers on a training exercise preparing to cross canals in Belgium and France. He is buried here in a quiet shaded corner.

To date there have been over 12,000 interments and there are over 5,000 graves. Burials still take place here, but infrequently. The former cemetery lodge is now a private house.

There is so much to see and learn in old graveyards and cemeteries and an incredible variety of styles of monument and many of course who have no monument at all. As they were originally intended, not just as places to bury the dead, but for the living to walk in, to remember and to reflect, so we can do the same today.



Paul Jennings (centre left facing camera) with the party at the Richard Ellis memorial

Paul adds:

I should like to thank Stephen Hemsworth, Bereavement Services Manager, for allowing me access to the burial registers at Stonefall Cemetery and for helpfully answering all my questions.

Forthcoming Events

Unless otherwise stated, please book by email to events@harrogatecivicsociety.org

Wednesday 16 August 2.30 pm	Washburn Heritage Centre A private visit with a talk. View an exhibition and historical artefacts. Afternoon tea, cake and sandwiches. Cost £12 per person
Sunday 20 August 11am - 4 pm	Harrogate and District Allotment Federation Show Harrogate Civic Society will have a stand at the show being held in Valley Gardens.
Friday 1 September to Sunday 12 November Fri 8 - Sun 17 September	War Memorial Centenary Exhibition A number of events are planned in connection with the centenary commemorations. These are being arranged jointly with organisations across the town. See page 3 Heritage Open Days A full programme is being developed and will be advertised nearer the time. See page 4
Friday 15 Sept Tuesday 19 Sept Thurs 21 Sept	Ogden of Harrogate Three private viewings of an extensive exhibition of artefacts relating to the business and most fascinating family history. Full details on our website.
Tuesday 19 September 7.30 pm	RHS Harlow Carr Gardens A talk from Harlow Carr Curator Paul Cook on the history of the gardens and their exciting future developments. Venue: St Paul's Church Hall
Tuesday 24 October 7.30 pm	Harrogate Carnegie Library A private event at the library to hear about the wide range of services the library provides to the community. Tea and coffee available
Wednesday 22 November Time tbc	Heritage Open Days and the National Trust A talk by Sarah Holloway, National Programme Manager for HODs. To be held at the United Reformed Church, West Park. Full details to be issued later.
Saturday 9 December	Civic Society Christmas Social At St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Duchy Road. Further details to be announced later in the year.

Paying for events - (Where 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: Stuart Holland .. stuart@harrogatecivicsociety.org Tel: 01423 500089
General matters info@harrogatecivicsociety.org
Membership queries.. .. membership@harrogatecivicsociety.org
Event bookings events@harrogatecivicsociety.org

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