



# e-NEWSLETTER

## HARROGATE CIVIC SOCIETY

24 July 2020

**L**ike all clubs and societies around the country, it has not been possible to meet with our members or hold our usual events because of the overriding need to respect the restrictions imposed during the coronavirus

pandemic. We all look forward to the time when our activities can resume when it is safe to do. Meanwhile we will continue to keep in contact with our members through these newsletters and are very much open to hearing your views on any matters of interest.

### Moving forward

Last month we introduced our new mission statement (see the bottom of this page) and described the four areas which the Society is seeking to develop as part of our forward strategy.

A number of members have come together to form four sub-groups, each devoted to one of the areas, namely Development and Planning, Events, History and Communications. These groups are now established and this month we feature the work that each has carried out. The Committee will as usual provide oversight and ultimate approval of new initiatives as they emerge.

*We warmly welcome ideas, suggestions and comments from all of our members on any aspect of the work of these groups. Please email us on [info@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:info@harrogatecivicsociety.org)*

*Green shoots: West Park Stray, 9 July 2020*

*See also page 3*



### Communications

As well as issuing newsletters, this group is looking at restructuring the Civic Society website so that it is more up to date and more informative for members and the wider public. We are looking at several examples from other societies to inspire this work. In addition we are considering setting up Facebook and Instagram accounts so that we can interact and exchange ideas with many other groups and organisations in Harrogate. As a key element in all these forms of media, we will be looking at

the possibility of updating our logo. The current logo has served us well over the years, but modern media calls for a simplified, yet recognisable, emblem for the Society. Of course we would welcome ideas from our membership.

The current website is

[www.harrogatecivicsociety.org](http://www.harrogatecivicsociety.org)

and the separate website for plaques is

[www.harrogateplaques.org](http://www.harrogateplaques.org).

*David Siddans*

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

## Events



*An earlier talk and tour at Manor House*

Our Events sub-group has been busy thinking about what kind of talks, social events, outings and visits we can look forward to when life returns to the "new normal". We would really welcome your views on topics you would like to hear about (they don't have to be Harrogate related), speakers you would enjoy, places you would like to visit, social gatherings, joint events with other local societies. A varied programme is also a great way of raising the profile of the Society, and recruiting new members, so if you have any ideas, comments or questions please let us know at

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

*Angela Fahy*

## Crescent Gardens



For some time now, the Civic Society has been advocating the establishment of a new **cultural quarter** in Harrogate. The redevelopment of the former council offices provides the opportunity to create a community space which could act as the hub of a quarter taking in the Royal Hall, the Royal Baths, the Royal Pump Room and the Mercer Gallery, all surrounding the Crescent Gardens and adjacent to Valley Gardens.

There is so much history and tradition in this area that can be brought alive for residents and visitors through good publicity, exhibitions, events, outdoor performances and, most of all, a link back to our spa heritage.

## Planning Applications

Despite Covid 19 there has been no shortage of planning applications coming forward, except for a few sparse weeks in April and May. Many applications concern tree works. One of these is to fell three trees to the right of the old Council Offices at Crescent Gardens because a manhole has become buried and trees have grown on top of it.

We have responded to two contentious housing sites. These are at Knox Lane for 73 dwellings and at Granby Farm for 95 dwellings. Neither site was allocated in the Draft Plan of 2016, but surprisingly they were listed as Additional Sites 2017. These and many other sites were carried forward to the Adopted Local Plan this year. The Knox Lane proposal is damaging to the Special Landscape Area and the country lane approach to Knox Hamlet and Oak Beck.

The Granby Farm application adds to over 700 houses that are being built or promised in the Kingsley Drive/Kingsley Road area (the Bilton Triangle) blocking the open space towards the Green Belt. A walking and cycling route is to be kept open but through the housing estate.

*The Knox Lane site*



*The Granby Farm site*

*Henry Pankhurst*

## History

Welcome to the History Group, formed “to research, record and communicate the history of Harrogate”. Although we have only just started, we have already identified many opportunities:

- ★ to support the town’s historians and researchers;
- ★ to promote the town’s museums and archives;
- ★ to interpret our fascinating past, through guides, lectures and special events;
- ★ to celebrate an array of special projects: the brown plaques scheme, the annual Heritage Open Days, upcoming anniversaries and others; and
- ★ to encourage our schools and young people to link with the town’s history.

We need as much help as we can get. If you are interested – whether knowledgeable or just enthusiastic - please let us know.



*Nigel McClea*

## Stray history



*Scarecrow on the Stray 11 July 2020*

Thursday 25th June will have passed by with little obvious significance.

It did, however, mark the 250th anniversary of a meeting at the Crown Hotel of the Duchy Commissioners in 1770 to discuss the establishment of The Stray.

It took eight more years to finalise the boundaries, so we will all be looking forward to a special celebration in 2028 which is considered by many to be the true 250th anniversary year.



## Forthcoming (online) exhibition

One of our partners, the Friends of the Mercer Art Gallery has been inviting submissions of artwork created during the Covid lockdown. An exhibition will be opened online on 1st August (Yorkshire Day). Go to [friendsofthemercerartgallery.co.uk](http://friendsofthemercerartgallery.co.uk) for details.



## No AGM this year

Like many associations and charities, it has not been possible to hold our AGM in the time frame specified by our Constitution. In these unusual times, the Charity Commission has said that AGMs can be postponed or cancelled. This means that our

next AGM will be sometime between February and July next year.

In the meantime, our financial report (which would have been presented at the AGM) will be placed on our website. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us on [info@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:info@harrogatecivicsociety.org)

**Contact us:** General matters .. .. [info@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:info@harrogatecivicsociety.org)  
Membership queries.. .. [membership@harrogatecivicsociety.org](mailto:membership@harrogatecivicsociety.org)

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