



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

November 2024



The hearth at Markenfield Hall. See page 3 for a review of our visit in August.

Shaping Harrogate's Future

How will the town develop in the years ahead?

As our new Chair Michael Newby points out (page 2), there are challenges ahead for the town and the Civic Society is playing its part.

We have seen the demise of Harrogate Borough Council and the transfer of powers and decision-making to North Yorkshire Council, which controls by far the largest county area in England.

For the last 50 years Harrogate has not had a council for the town but that is due to change next year. Meanwhile the Civic Society has joined with others to begin to shape a vision for the future of our town.

In this issue we report on the work of the Harrogate Town Plan Forum (pages 10 and 11) with the aim of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the town and also the current and future planning system (page 6) which controls everything.

In this issue

Message from the Chair	2
Markenfield Hall visit	3
Rev John Sheepshanks: talk	4
Current Planning Applications	5
Planning: What you need to know	6
Heritage Open Days 2024	7
Yorks and Humber ACS Anniversary	8
Harrogate on Film: final showing?	9
Profile of Linda O'Carroll	9
Harrogate Town Plan Forum	10,11
West Park URC: progress note	12
Next talk: Robert Ogden	13
This Year's Christmas Social	14
Other Events Coming up	15
Summary of Forthcoming Events	16

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 new Chair

When it was suggested to me that I should consider allowing my name to go forward as the new Chair of the HCS I felt that I needed a little time to get to know the committee and how it works. As a result members elected an interim chair and interim vice chair to carry the Society forward.

Time has now passed and on 7 October I formally took over as Chair. I would like to put on record my thanks to Andrew Brown for stepping into the role of interim chair; he has made my transition from Vice Chair to Chair so much easier. I am very grateful that Andrew has agreed to act as Vice Chair until the next AGM.

As some of you know I am a previous mayor of Harrogate and served 24 years on the old borough council. I am currently a trustee of the Harrogate International Partnerships, Pannal Village Hall and the Styan Charity for Youth. In the past, and at various times, I have been a school governor of two primary schools and one secondary school and a scout and cub scout leader. I am a regular attendee at Harrogate Theatre and have dipped my toes into the amateur dramatic scene. I will be starting rehearsals for the Pannal Players' production of Cinderella this month. Perhaps I may see one or two of you at Pannal Village Hall between 19 and 22 February?

There are a number of challenges ahead both for HCS and for the town as a whole.

We are very good at communicating amongst ourselves and keeping members up-to-date with news and information about what we are doing. Thanks are due to David and the comms team for all



Michael Newby

that they do and to Chris for maintaining the website. However I feel that we do need to look at how we can build on this to communicate beyond the Society and not be shy about the good work that we do and the interesting programme that we offer to members.

Our recent meeting about planning not only gave us an overview of how the planning system works but also raised a number of issues relating to the future of our town. The new local government arrangements will certainly have an impact on us and I believe that there is work to do to ensure that Harrogate does not lose its identity. The expertise, experience and interest in and concern for Harrogate that we have within HCS should ensure that we have a pivotal role to play in influencing the future of Harrogate.

If you have any suggestions, ideas or feel that there is an area of the Society in which you would like to become more involved please get in touch with me at chair@harrogatecivicsociety.org

If you have local friends who may be interested in joining the Civic Society, please refer them to the join us page on our website

Our next Newsletter ...

... will be issued in February 2025, so meanwhile may we wish all our members and Society friends

A very Happy Christmas

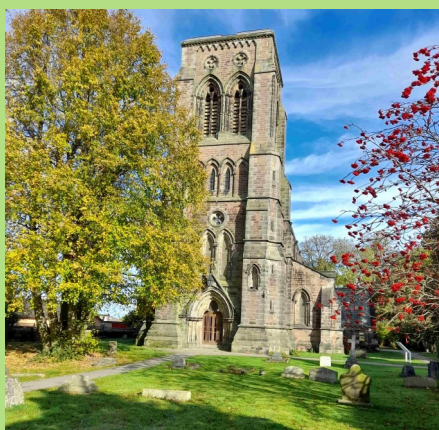
Don't forget our Christmas social event on 15 December! Full details on page 14

Civic Society visit to Markenfield Hall

Angela Fahy reports:

On Thursday 15 August we set off for our private tour of Markenfield Hall. Our guide was Markenfield volunteer Theresa who kept us enthralled for nearly 2 hours by telling us the story of this medieval moated house through the lens of the tumultuous history of the North of England.

From a modest house appearing in the Domesday Book (1086), to being moated and crenelated, a centre for the (not very successful) Rising of the North in 1569, to confiscation and falling into ruin, to being restored - we heard it all and were rewarded with tea and cake around the blazing fire (see page 1). It was August after all.



St John's Church, Bilton

Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, St John's Church, Bilton was consecrated in November 1857. The third vicar was John Sheepshanks, whose grandfather William paid for the building.

John's fascinating life was the subject of a talk to the Civic Society in August. See page 4

Appeal for memorabilia

The History Group is currently researching the former boys preparatory school, Clifton House, located on Stray Road until its closure in 1968.

If any members have memories of the school they would be willing to share, please contact Nigel McClea at history@harrogatecivicsociety.org

The Remarkable Story of Rev John Sheepshanks 1834 - 1912

*About 40 Society members gathered at a rather chilly St John's Church, Bilton on 25 September for what proved to be a fascinating evening. Member **Alan Gould**, Secretary and Treasurer of the Bilton Historical Society, took us first on a guided tour of the church and then gave us a talk about its third vicar from 1868 to 1873, John Sheepshanks, the son of its first incumbent, Thomas.*

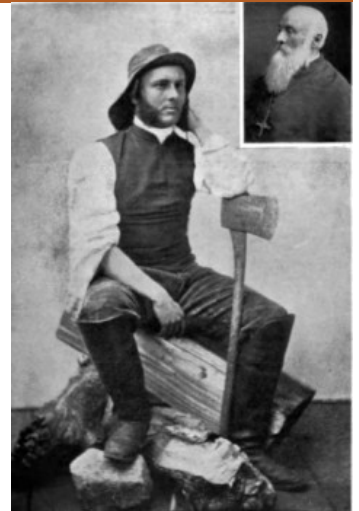
Paul Jennings writes:

John Sheepshanks, one of an important family in the history of Harrogate, turned out to be a most interesting character. He was a graduate of Christ's College, Cambridge, Charles Darwin's old college. He began his clerical career under the celebrated Dr Hook of Leeds parish church. Between 1859 and 1867 he undertook missionary work in the far west of Canada, where he showed great sympathy with the indigenous people who were suffering the effects of a settler invasion.

From there he journeyed westwards across the Pacific, taking in Hong Kong, where he visited opium dens. He continued across Siberia, where he witnessed the sorry spectacle of manacled prisoners, to St Petersburg, Germany and then home. After his time in Bilton, he became vicar of St Margaret's, Anfield in Liverpool, a tough area ridden with sectarian strife. He eventually became Bishop of Norwich from 1893 to 1910, dying two years later. He wrote a number of books, including on his world travels.

His daughter Mary was also a woman of interest, a committed socialist, pacifist, internationalist and suffragist and his son Thomas was a senior civil servant at the time of the birth of the NHS in 1948. I did rather feel for John's

Right: John Sheepshanks during his time in the far west of Canada. Circa 1860



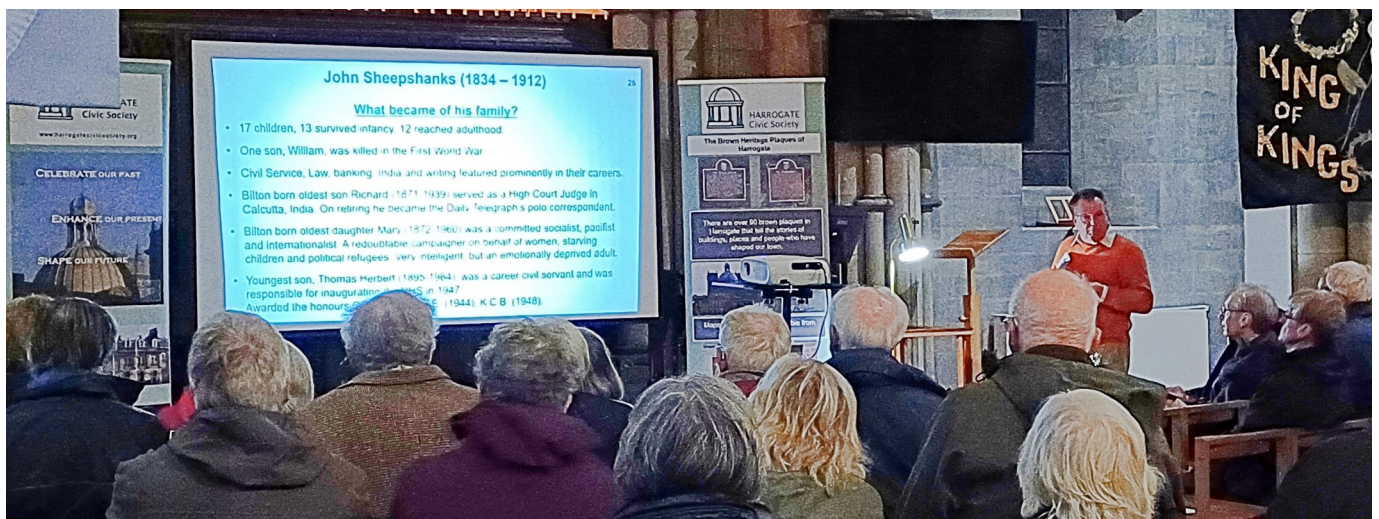
wife Margaret, the daughter of a Thirsk doctor and eighteen years his junior, who bore him 17 children. According to Mary, who wrote of the family's 'austere' home life, she was 'swamped' by child rearing and suffered throughout their marriage from nervous disorders. She was thus like a number of Victorian women married to talented, energetic and driven men like John or, for example, David Livingstone, whose wife found life a struggle and sought comfort in drink.

I left the evening having been wholly absorbed in Alan's excellent presentation and determined especially to read more about Mary.

Thanks to Jenny and Kevin for providing the refreshments and helping to set things up.

If you are interested to learn more about the work of Bilton Historical Society please visit <http://www.biltonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/>

Alan Gould giving his talk to the audience in the church



Current Planning Applications

*In his latest review of planning, **Henry Pankhurst** discusses three applications that have been in the planning process for a long time.*

Harrogate Spring Water (HSW)

Outline consent was given in May 2017 for an extension to the bottling plant. Then we saw a proposal for a larger area to accommodate an extension in December 2019, which was refused in January 2021. Additional and revised drawings have come forward since, which would take an age to go through.

The current amended information covers design of the building and details of compensatory land for the loss of Rotary Wood. This area of community woodland was granted Asset of Community Value status in 2015 and renewed in 2020.



A visualisation from the application documents

There have been over 600 public comments on the Reserved Matters proposals, mostly objections. The die was cast when outline permission was given, but we should expect the outcome to be the best possible for the environment and amenity.

We acknowledge the contribution of HSW to the local economy and employment, but we suggest that the company (Danone) is in a very privileged position to be able to tap into the unique resource of Harrogate spring water. In compensation for damage to woodland and the Special Landscape Area a large area of new woodland is to be planted adjoining the western end of the site, with some improvements to the design of the building including lowering the roof and additional timber panelling.

I suspect that there is more discussion to be had about the details of planting the new woodland, landscaping and biodiversity.

Debenhams

Not so environmentally critical but very important to the town centre is the former Debenhams building on Parliament Street. There was an application for 50 apartments and commercial uses in November 2021 which was withdrawn in August 2023.

The current application dates from September 2023. We were invited to meet the developer who gave us a detailed presentation in January 2024.

This proposal doesn't involve complete demolition. The building has the problem of different floor levels, being on a sloping site and not all constructed at the same time. Apartments, 34 of them, would be a large part of the development, plus commercial uses, hopefully including retail. The 1960s element next to the Westminster Arcade would have a face-lift and the dreadful canopy would be replaced. We made comments to the planners, noting ways that design details could be improved. Pleasing revisions were made, some of which we had suggested.

Applegarth Homes

My final application, dating from January 2024 may not be familiar to you. It is a Harrogate Housing Association application for Applegarth Homes on Knaresborough Road, almost opposite the new Lidl supermarket. The proposal is to demolish the existing building and replace it with a much larger



one including 26 dwellings. The current building is not listed, but nicely designed and built in 1939. It is well set back from the road in attractive grounds – unusual for buildings in the area and so of some interest. For these and other reasons its loss would be regrettable. Do have a look at it!

All you need to know about Town and Country Planning

Paul Hatherley's presentation to the Society on 22 October gave us an outline of the history and practice of Local Authority planning.

Here, Henry Pankhurst summarises the talk:



As Paul suggested, planning is a very complex topic in which even the professionals are selective of the areas they work in. Civic Society members may guess that Paul's subject was well chosen for me! He is well qualified to educate us in the mysteries of the planning system, having had a career in surveying and as a planning officer. Although retired, he is keenly offering his experience and expertise towards producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Harrogate. A Forum of 60 members has been established due to Paul's efforts, along with our previous chairman Stuart Holland. This work should feed into Harrogate Town Council from April 2025.

The question, Paul said, is 'What does one *need* to know about planning?' Answer, 'The trick is to know what you don't know!'

History

To set the scene he began with a little history. Town Planning began in 1906 with the garden city movement to create new towns, followed in 1909 by the Housing and Town Planning Act, which brought an end to back-to-back housing. Other Acts followed throughout the 20th Century that obliged local authorities to produce town planning schemes, undertake preservation of buildings, control of development via planning permission and so on. Governments like to change/modify/simplify the planning rules. We were reminded that in 2010 wholesale changes were made. Regional planning strategies were abolished. Also, Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPGs) on various types of development were made redundant, in favour of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). According to Paul, nothing really changes, and we still have a staggering collection of legal documents.

A new North Yorkshire Local Plan

North Yorkshire's district councils are now abolished including Harrogate's. All parish and town councils in the former Harrogate District remain, but Harrogate is an unparished area, hence the push to revive a Harrogate Town Council. Now that the County has changed/extended duties, a new Local Plan (LP) is required and Paul gave us the timetable. **Stage 1** (2023/24) is gathering information and evidence along with engagement on important issues. **Stage 2** (2024) is consultation on the scope of the LP, and investigating potential development sites. Paul says that the timetable has already slipped, these stages being far from completion. The process continues to **Stage 6** (2028) which is adoption. A question was asked about public comments on the Local Plan. These are noted but not necessarily acted upon. Paul says that all comments are listed with reasons if they are ignored. We were however strongly encouraged to take part in the Local Plan process.

Increased Housing Targets

Another question was 'How are housing figures arrived at?' It seems that a countrywide total comes from feeding various needs into the calculation, which is then apportioned between local authorities according to population etc., rather than an ability to absorb the increase in dwellings.

A most interesting evening with a very attentive audience.

See page 10 for a report on progress towards a Harrogate Town Plan

Heritage Open Days 2024

*The national Heritage Open Days event took place through the period 6 to 15 September. Here **Stella and Geoff Brown** look back over an enormously successful programme of venues to mark Heritage Open Days in Harrogate.*



.... and breathe! All those exhausting months of preparation and planning over in 10 short days and all the HODs volunteers can breathe freely again.

It was a busy 10 days – 59 events over 28 venues. There was an eclectic mix of tours, talks, walks, music, exhibitions and buildings, which, as always, during HODs were completely free to attend.

Many of the regular favourites were in the programme, popular as ever, all well attended, some oversubscribed. To these were added new walks, new talks, and new venues. The Festival continues to be a fantastic opportunity for residents and visitors alike to see some of the amazing heritage within Harrogate and the surrounding area.

One of the features of the HODs Festival is to provide a rare opportunity to visit places and events that are not available at other times, such as the Masonic Hall, Harrogate Club, and behind the scenes at Pateley Bridge Playhouse. The talks and guided walks from local experts provided a fascinating insight to areas of Harrogate, Ripley, Pannal, Bilton and New Park. Several churches, the Library, Odeon and Old Magnesia Well were all open with exhibits, towers to climb, stories being told – and often tea and cakes!



Masonic Hall

What made it a success? The people! The Civic Society helped in coordinating the programme and supporting events, but it was the individual event organisers who led



*All Saints' Church,
Ripley*



Wesley Chapel

the walks, managed the opening of buildings, and all of the volunteers who helped out on the day – not forgetting the huge amount of behind-the-scenes research and preparation over the months before the Festival.

The evaluation process is now underway. The responses received have been very complimentary – once again during the HODs Festival residents and visitors have enjoyed the opportunity to explore Harrogate and the surrounding area, and appreciated all the hard work that went into the events. One recurring theme of the feedback has been how much people have learned about the history and heritage on their doorstep.

Thoughts have turned to next year - some of the events are already being planned. If you have any suggestions for events for 2025 we would love to hear them - please drop a line to hods@harrogatecivicsociety.org

Last but certainly not least the **Heritage Open Days 2025** dates for your diary are **12 – 21 September**.

YHACS 25th Anniversary

Harrogate Civic Society has been a long-standing member of the Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies. The association has over 40 member societies throughout Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire, including 10 societies in North Yorkshire.

*The Association celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and to mark this landmark occasion they held an anniversary lunch on 19 October at the Met Hotel in Leeds. About 60 people attended the event including both **Michael Newby** and **Nick Brennan** representing the Harrogate Civic Society.*



Nick reports:

.It was a great opportunity to meet other civic societies from across the region and exchange views and experiences as well as toasting the success and longevity of the YHACS.

The societies in attendance all enthusiastically represent their members although we discovered that they range in size from less than a dozen up to the 600+ members of the Leeds Civic Trust.

There were many common themes arising in conversations from how to make the best use of social media to promote activities and encourage a greater diversity in membership, through to how the civic movement can help provide a voice in shaping the future of their communities.

The speaker on the day was Abigail Scott Paul, Global Director of the Humanise Campaign, working at Thomas Heatherwick Studios. Abigail who resides in Ripon, announced herself as a 'WILLY', a five-letter acronym for someone Who works In London and Lives in Yorkshire (who knew this was a thing?!)

Her presentation was centred on a burgeoning movement to bring an end to 'boring buildings' in favour of sustainable buildings that engage people on an architectural detail level as well as striving to ensure people who then experience them feel safe, happy and included. An example given was the Maggie Cancer Centre at St James's Hospital where the design incorporates both landscape and free-flowing space to help create a sense of calm and serenity for its users. It is a building well worth visiting and where you will find the staff extremely receptive to visitors.



One noticeable takeaway from her talk was that Historic England research found that areas with a higher percentage of listed buildings have statistically better levels of life satisfaction and well-being. In this case we are blessed in Harrogate!

It was evident from the people we spoke to that they hold Harrogate and its heritage in high regard, so much so that the next Annual General Meeting of Yorkshire and Humberside Association of Civic Societies will be held in Harrogate on 25 January where we will be providing the welcome and speaker. It will be an event not to be missed.



Mike Newby (nearest camera) and Nick Brennan at the lunch

Harrogate on Film - the Final Show?

*A review by **Nigel McClea**:*

September saw the fifth and sixth outings of *Harrogate on Film*, part of our expanding programme of support for and encouragement of sister organisations working for the benefit of the town. Our partners on this occasion were the Harrogate Film Society and the Yorkshire Film Archive, to both of whom go our admiration and grateful thanks. Tribute is also due to the Odeon for their excellent hosting, but the biggest thank you must be reserved for all of you. Thank you for embracing, and advertising to friends and family, such a major event in our calendar. Although we never, ever envisaged *Harrogate on Film* as a money raiser, it has been such a sell-out success that our Society is not far short of £5000 the richer, in the process leaving us with a nice problem to have.



Having confidently advertised the recent screenings as 'positively the last', do we now emulate the late, great Frank Sinatra by adding: 'well, for the moment at least...'?!

Linda O'Carroll - supporting our History Group

*Our well-established History Group, led by **Nigel McClea**, carries out research into a wide range of subjects relating to Harrogate's heritage.*

Here, Nigel introduces his latest 'recruit' to the group:

Linda O'Carroll is a recent member of the Civic Society and, for reasons that will become apparent, is a hugely welcome addition to our History Group. Born and raised in Kent, in the early 1980s Linda relocated north to work first for the Leeds Tutorial College before, in 1996, moving to a similar post in Harrogate. Among her wide (not to say eclectic) range of interests, Linda has been, at one time or another, an advanced scuba diving instructor and a designer of knitting patterns. She has long been an admirer of Victorian art and architecture and has spent much of her private time researching the people and places of Harrogate, particularly from the Victorian period when our town saw an explosion of development and enterprise.



Some of her extensive researches have been published on Wikipedia. To appreciate the sheer range of her work, please visit the **Harrogate History** tab on the Society's website and scroll down to **History Articles**. There you will find links to Linda's current library of articles, a massive addition to our ever expanding historical archive. Please enjoy your visit and, if you have any comments, or suggestions for future articles, Linda may be contacted, via us, at **history@harrogatecivicsociety.org**.



*The Civic Society continues to play a key role supporting the work of the **Harrogate Town Plan Forum**. This seeks to develop a **Neighbourhood Plan** for the unparished area of the town of Harrogate.*



Nick Brennan summarises the progress to date:

There have been two recent workshops held by the Forum. The first on 10 September looked at four key themes:

- Zero carbon
- Spa heritage
- Transportation
- Retail/business/town centre

These are topics the Neighbourhood Plan could address. This attracted a good cross representation of people and organisations within the town.

It was confirmed that an application has been lodged with North Yorkshire Council to recognise the Harrogate Town Plan Forum as a designated Forum. The Forum has already been the beneficiary of a £2000 grant from Councillor Mann's locality budget to help cover initial costs. The Forum now has over 60 members representing business interests and voluntary bodies across the town. It is working in accordance with a constitution and a management committee is in place. Once the Forum is designated it will apply for further funding. The Forum has a project plan to gather evidence to help inform the next stages of the Neighbourhood Plan process. There is less than six months to do this before the Forum can start to

work with the new Harrogate Town Council in an advisory role when that council comes into existence in April next year.

Forum expecting designation by NYC

Representatives of the Harrogate Town Plan Forum including Stuart Holland met with North Yorkshire Council officers on 11 October. They discussed opportunities of working together as North Yorkshire begins its new Local Plan process. The good news is that the Forum and neighbourhood area designation applications are now officially registered with North Yorkshire Council and are out for a six-week consultation. We would encourage members to support this consultation via access to North Yorkshire Council's website.

Harrogate Local Economy

A further well attended public meeting of the Forum was held on 21st October with a theme being Harrogate's Local Economy, led by David Waddington from Hornbeam Park Developments. This was a useful workshop identifying opportunities and challenges lying ahead for the town's economic growth.

continued on next page ..

There is certainly evidence that Harrogate is well placed for growth. It has a higher-than-average number of people in higher education, has fewer-than-average retail unit vacancies and is sixth in the country for millionaires per capita! However, the speaker considered that the lack of employment land opportunities is something that needs addressing with some urgency.

Retail and the Town Centre

Much interest on the evening was around the town centre retail offering and its visual appearance. It was clear that much of Harrogate's charm resides in its independent retail offering and there was discussion how this could be encouraged. It was perhaps surprising to learn that around three million people visited Harrogate in 2023. It was agreed that there was an opportunity to build on that with a revitalising vision for Harrogate which could include the promotion and linking of established retail and hospitality areas such as Montpellier, Cold Bath Road and Kings Road.

Tourism

It was considered that Harrogate as a destination could also be promoted by building a future offering around holistic and therapeutic treatments based on its spa water heritage while seeking to utilise some of the heritage buildings currently unused and owned by North

Yorkshire Council. It was thought that further enhancements could be made to the town's public realm experience starting with the Station Gateway area by incorporating destination signposting, street materials, introduction of planting and complimentary lighting.

All welcome to join in

Forum meetings are held at the West Park United Reformed Church on Victoria Avenue starting at 7pm. You don't have to be a Forum member - anyone can come along. The next meetings are:

- * Wed 13 Nov – Transport - led by Jemima Parker
- * Thurs 28 Nov – Housing – led by Jonathan Foggitt.

Further contact information can be found in Harrogate Town Plan Forum newsletter available via their new website. Just search www.harrogatetownplan.org

The website will start to be populated over the next few weeks with lots of useful background information about the neighbourhood plan process, the evidence supporting what might go into Harrogate's neighbourhood plan and future work.

The Boundary of Harrogate Town



We would like to express our considerable gratitude to Stuart Holland and Paul Hatherley who have worked tirelessly to drive this forward with the support of organisations such as Zero Carbon Harrogate, a growing number of businesses, voluntary groups and individuals across the town.

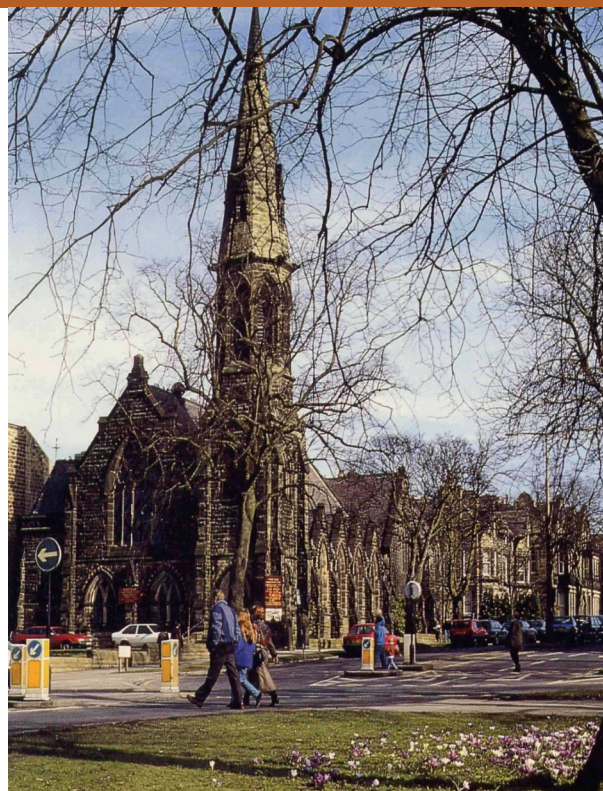
Progress at the West Park United Reformed Church

The project to restore, renovate and repurpose the historic West Park United Reformed Church is well under way, managed by a project team and with funds from the church and other sources. The Civic Society, whilst not actively involved, is happy to support the aims and objectives of the project.

*Here, **Stuart Holland**, former Chair of Harrogate Civic Society and one of the project directors, reports on progress so far:*

Renovation and refurbishment work is now underway at West Park URC.

Later this month, the Raglan Room will be re-opening as a meeting room for up to 18 people. This will be followed by work to the Victoria Room. Both rooms are part of the old schoolrooms where over 200 children were taught in the past.



A Winter Concert by Harrogate Male Voice Choir takes place on Saturday 7 December (*details right*) and in late January the West Park Centre will be hosting a fund-raising cabaret style event when Harry Satloka will recount tales from his epic cycle ride to visit the Egyptian pyramids.

All enquiries to enquiries@westparkcentre.org

The original church will continue to be available for concerts, productions and exhibitions, as well as a destination for visitors to the town who will be able to view the *Harrogate Story*, a semi-permanent exhibition, being prepared by members of the Civic Society History Group. The *Harrogate Story* opens Spring 2025.

West Park Centre
at West Park United Reformed Church

**A
Winter Concert**
by
Harrogate Male Voice Choir

In aid of refurbishment and re-configuration
of the church to create a new worship
area, community hub, performance spaces
and heritage centre

on Saturday 7th December
2024
at 7pm
Tickets £10
– including refreshments,
available from
www.harrogatefilmsociety.org



Enquiries:
West Park Centre
07460 470003
enquiries@westparkcentre.org.uk

Pharaohs, Royalty and Harrogate - A history of Ogden Jewellers

Robert Ogden will be presenting a talk to the Civic Society on Tuesday 19 November 2024 from 7:00pm at St Paul's URC Hall, Belford Road.

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

Ogden of Harrogate, one of the oldest and best-known family jewellers in the country, have created beautiful items for many prestigious clients within their Harrogate Workshop, among them Winston Churchill, the Roosevelts, King George VI and Princess Marina.

Their history began in 1893, when James Roberts Ogden opened 'Ogden's Little Diamond Shop' in Harrogate. At the time, Harrogate was entering its heyday as 'The World's Greatest Spa', and visitors to the town included royalty, aristocracy, and society names.

By all accounts 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.



Robert Ogden, who now runs the business alongside his brother Ben, will bring the founder to life, and provide some insights into the inner workings of the jewellery industry.

Teas and coffees will be available from 7:00pm and the talk will begin at 7:30pm. This event is for members of the society only. Seating capacity is limited so please email events@harrogatecivicsociety.org if you wish to attend.



Above: James R Ogden delivering one of his talks on his Egyptian discoveries

Left: the shop in the early 20th century

This year's Christmas Social: Sunday 15 December

Angela Fahy, Chair of our events group, outlines the arrangements for our 2024 Christmas social:

Our very popular annual social gathering will take place at St Wilfrid's Church Hall (off Duchy Road) on Sunday 15 December 2.30 - 4.30 pm. As usual there will be wine, soft drinks and mince pies, but most importantly the chance to chat with fellow members. This event is free for members. Guests are welcome and a voluntary donation would be appreciated.

Book Stall

We will also have, as in the past, a book stall but this year we are adding a charity sale and ask that members ransack their book shelves in search of books, maps, etc. relating to Harrogate's history to donate.

Proceeds from the charity sale will go to St Michael's Hospice and any left over books (we hope there won't be any!) will be donated to the Oxfam book shop in Harrogate. Society member Paul Jennings has kindly offered to organise this but please contact him to arrange drop off or if you have any questions.

paul.jennings@cantab.net Tel. 01423 506509

Book stall payment can be by cash or cheque.

BOOKING:

To assist with catering please book by email (see back page)

BY 8 DECEMBER



... and a short talk

It will be a busy day for Paul as he will also be giving a short talk at about 3.30 on the history of gin. Copies of his 'hot of the press' new book *Gin and the English - an illustrated History* will be for sale at a members' special price of £26.

... and there is more.....

On the same day there is a Christmas Fair in the Church, and a performance of a traditional candlelit Santa Lucia service by the Swedish choir, Chorus Pictor, at 5pm (free admission, lasting about 30 minutes). They will also be performing at York Minster on 16 December.

Ideally, book your place for this to get the best seats by contacting bookings@stwilfrid.org



Some of our other events coming up ...

Heritage Plaques

Tuesday 21 January

Chris Dicken's talk will give an insight into the history of the plaques, how each new plaque comes into being and will illustrate many of the plaques and the themes therein. Perhaps even a few nuggets of knowledge about Harrogate that you may not know. Chris is no historian, so it won't be an in-depth look at Harrogate's history, but rather a pointer to some of the interesting places and people of our town.

The last Mayor of Harrogate District, Cllr Victoria Oldham, unveiling the plaque to Louis Copé, June 2022



Commonwealth War Graves

Tuesday 18 February

Elizabeth Smith, Public Engagement Coordinator (North East) for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, will give a talk and presentation to members about the history of the CWGC and its work today.

The presentation starts with how the Commission began and its work during the First and Second World Wars, and concludes with its work today in maintaining and preserving its historic estate around the world. The presentation will also mention some of the war graves closer to home and tell the stories of some of those that the Commission commemorates.



St John's Church, Bilton

Leonora Cohen OBE: Suffragette

Tuesday 11 March

A talk by **Nicola Pullan**, Assistant Curator of Social History at Leeds Museums and Abbey House Museum Kirkstall.

Based on research from her archive held at Leeds Museums and Galleries, the talk will be a chance to explore the life of Suffragette Leonora Cohen. It will be a chance to learn more about her early life, her suffrage activity in Leeds, her move to Harrogate and what she went on to do after winning the vote.

Leonora Cohen pictured in 1909 when she joined the Leeds Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU)



Summary of Forthcoming Events

Talks are held at St Paul's Church Hall, Belford Road, unless indicated otherwise

Teas and coffees will be available from 7 pm

Tuesday 19 November 7 for 7.30 pm	Pharaohs, Royalty and Harrogate - A history of Ogden Jewellers A talk by Robert Ogden
Sunday 15 December 2.30 to 4.30 pm	Civic Society Christmas Social At St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Duchy Road
Tuesday 21 January 7 for 7.30 pm	Harrogate Heritage Plaques A talk by Chris Dicken, leader of the Civic Society Plaques group
Tuesday 18 February 7 for 7.30 pm	The work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission A talk by Elizabeth Smith, Public Engagement Coordinator (North East)
Tuesday 11 March 7 for 7.30 pm	Leonora Cohen OBE: A Leeds Suffragette A talk by Nicola Pullan: Assistant Curator of Leeds and Social History, Leeds Museums and Abbey House Museum, Kirkstall

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

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: Michael Newby ..	chair@harrogatecivicsociety.org
General matters	info@harrogatecivicsociety.org
Membership queries.. ..	membership@harrogatecivicsociety.org
Event bookings	events@harrogatecivicsociety.org

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Plaques website: www.harrogateplaques.org