



The Barber line which operated between 1907 and 1957 served the gas works in New Park from the main line at Bilton.

Named after John Barber, a director of the Gas Company Board, this iconic locomotive was restored and is now homed at the South Tyneside Railway in Alston. Pictured on the footplate is Terry Williams who presented a talk to the society in April. See page 4.

Photo: T Williams collection

In this issue ...

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- Reflections on our 50 years
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- Our next Event
- Our 2021 AGM
- Station Gateway submission
- Planning matters
- Links with the Harrogate community
- 4 Belford Road and SAVE Britain's Heritage

Our future activities

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 25 May
at 7.30 pm | A social History of New Park
(part 2) See page 6 for
more information. |
| Late July | Annual General Meeting -
see page 7. |

We would welcome members' views about arranging outings later in the summer (Aug/ Sept) such as a garden visit or a walking tour of an area in or near Harrogate. Numbers would be limited to 10 to ensure social distancing. Please respond as it makes it much easier to plan events if we know what members would like.

please email us at
events@harrogatecivicsociety.org

The launch of our new website

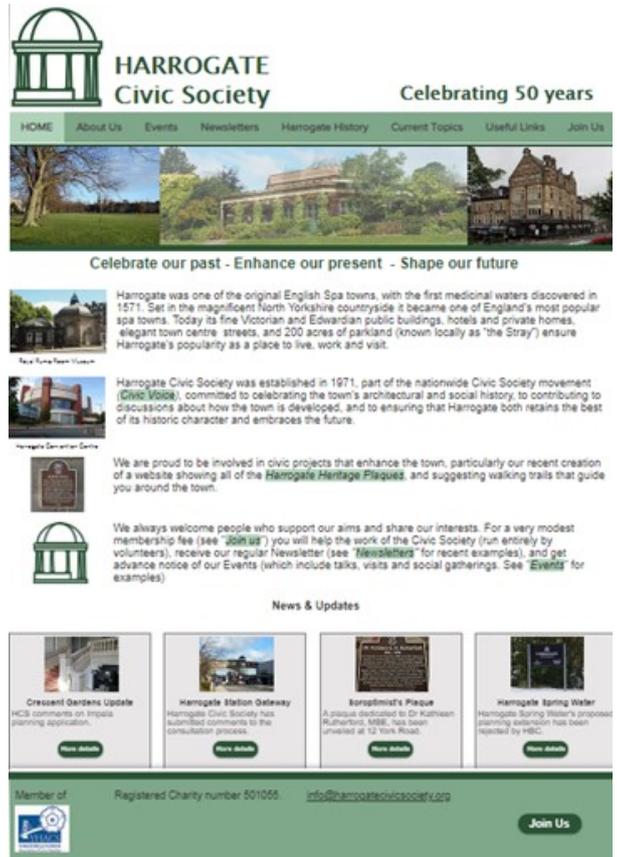
Chris Dicken writes:

A new website has been developed over the last few months. Whilst the old one had served a very useful purpose, it was agreed that it was looking a little dated and a lot more could be done with a website. As developer of the Plaques website I volunteered to use that experience to design the new website. So after a large amount of time, and with feedback and comment from the communications sub-group, here it is.

The new site has a more vibrant and attractive feel, with lots of images to highlight the content. Some previous topics were kept, but expanded, and new ones added. So after the welcoming front page, we now have information about the Society itself, our events, newsletters, a history section, current topics, useful links to other organisations and an online membership form.

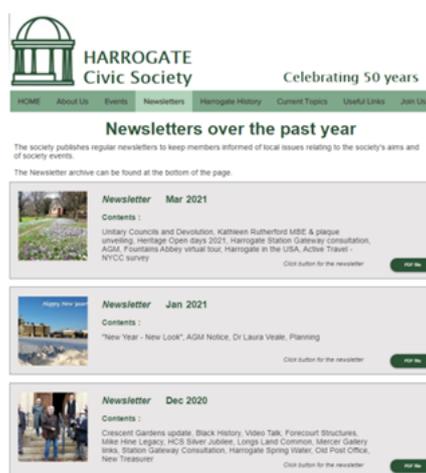
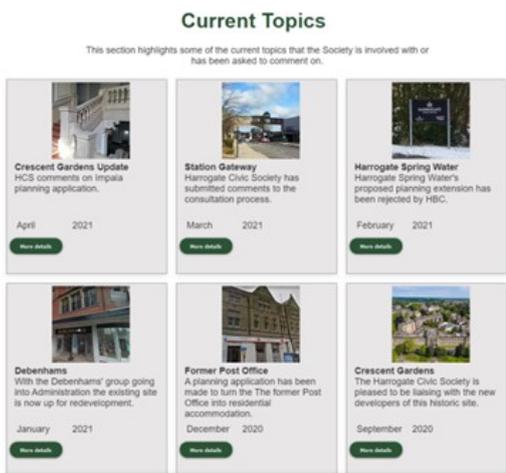
'We hope the new website will be a fantastic resource for the society and its members.'

Take a look at the many photos now on the website and explore the pages. Reports on past events are included, along with an ever-growing newsletter section. The history pages are a fantastic new addition, with content provided by



the very active history sub-group. These contain much on Harrogate's history, books and resources and more will be added as time goes on.

Find us on:
www.harrogatecivicsociety.org



Left: two of the pages from the new site Current topics and earlier newsletters can be read in full detail

The website is mobile phone friendly and incidentally the Plaques website www.harrogateplaques.org has also recently been enhanced to work on a mobile phone.

We hope the new website will be a fantastic resource for the society and its members . The 'go to' place to see what's been happening in the society, current news and what events are coming up. We think you'll like it.

Celebrating 50 years

During the course of the year we will be printing articles contributed by members which reflect on the origins of the Society and activities over its 50 year history

Here are three short extracts. The full articles can be seen on the HCS website. Go to the 'About Us' tab and then look at the 'Society History' sub-page. Alternatively click [here](#)

HARROGATE CIVIC SOCIETY – THE EARLY DAYS

By Malcolm Neesam



I joined the Committee of the newly formed Harrogate Society in 1971. At that time, the society met on the top floor of the no.26 James Street premises of Walter Davey and Son, one of Harrogate's top photographers who occupied the shop built for them in the 1880's. The Society had been established to oppose the five-phase traffic scheme introduced at that time, but as time passed, it broadened its interests and activities to take on such matters as planning, land use, the protection and enhancement of buildings of significance, and the holding of public meetings to inform them of new developments.

Harrogate Civic Society c.1971. left to right: standing: Michael Laycock, Walter Brown, Malcolm Neesam; sitting: Walter Davey, Enid Davey, Winston Hartley, William Woods, Joe Harris, Christine Shaddick

THE ORIGINS OF THE HARROGATE CIVIC SOCIETY

By Michael Laycock



You may wonder why southbound traffic passes through Harrogate by such a tortuous route, involving as it does five nearly right angled turns from Ripon Road to Leeds Road. What we have now is a remnant of a much more ambitious project proposed more than fifty years ago.

At least one planned dual carriageway through Harrogate having been abandoned because of public opposition, West Riding County Council and Harrogate Borough Council officials devised a five-phased Traffic Management Scheme to achieve their objective in stages.

THE HISTORIC LAMP POSTS

By Henry Pankhurst



Harrogate had its first gas street lamps planned in October 1847 by the Improvement Commissioners. A total of 96 locations were decided upon, for the short cast iron columns with square bases that included the Yorkshire rose in the casting. They were installed soon afterwards. This style of lamp post continued to be used for many decades – probably for about a century. You can still see examples today, to a limited extent, around the town and in private gardens. In the 1960s they were converted to electricity, unfortunately with a small junction box at the top and with swan-neck fittings. This arrangement was not an enhancement compared to the original square Victorian lanterns with a Prussian spike, but at least the historic columns were saved.

Significant anniversaries in 2021

450 years	The discovery of Slingsby Well	40 years	Harrogate Brigantes
150 years	Harrogate RUFC	30 years	Mercer Gallery
100 years	Harrogate Soroptomists	21 years	New Park Heritage Centre
100 years	Rotary Club of Harrogate		
85 years	Odeon Cinema	And, of course:	
70 years	Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate	50 years	Harrogate Civic Society
60 years	Bilton Historical Society		
60 years	Harrogate and District Allotment Federation		

Our latest talk: A pictorial history of New Park by Terry Williams

20 April 2021

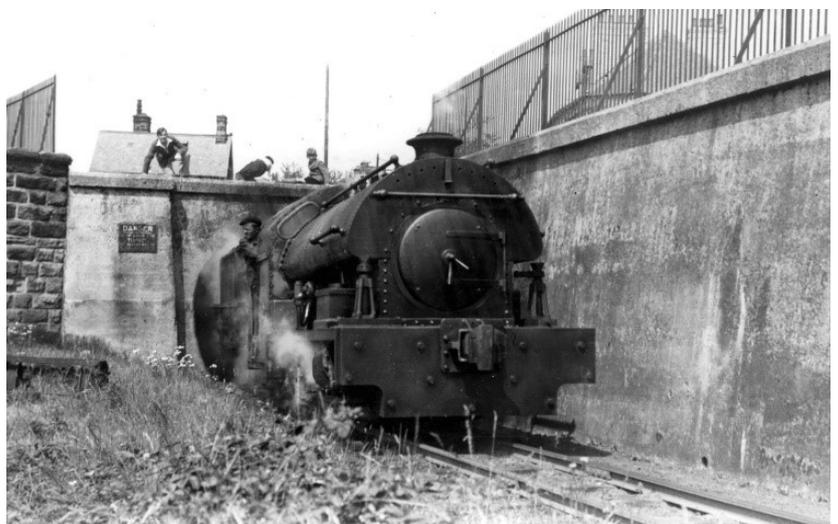
Not content with being a teacher at New Park school for many years Terry Williams has also become New Park's historian. Members enjoyed a Zoom talk about the origins of New Park, accompanied by some fascinating old photographs, maps and diagrams. While the area is now very much part of Harrogate it was farmland (apart for the now redeveloped Little Wonder pub at the junction of Skipton Road and Ripon Road) until gas works were built there in 1845 to serve the street gas lights installed in High and Low Harrogate. The gas was produced from coal, which was brought into the works on a specially built railway, which passed through a tunnel under the Skipton Road. The gas works site is visible on the left just south of the Skipton Road/Ripon Road roundabout and has been the focus in recent years of a controversial application for Harrogate's only large Tesco supermarket.

With this industrial development came the need for workers and housing and eventually New Park School which opened in 1897. Terry showed us photographs of a train emerging from the tunnel that ran under the school playground, with happy children

hanging over the edge of the tunnel to wave! We also saw a number of drawings and photographs of the railway engines and tunnel, which would fascinate any railway enthusiast.

Terry has set up the New Park Heritage Centre and Visitor Centre which can be visited by appointment. www.newparkheritagecentre.co.uk

We are delighted that Terry will return to present a second talk on the social history of New Park. See page 6 for further details.



Train exiting tunnel near New Park School, 9 July 1949

Photo: T Williams collection

Planning

46 Tower Street, Harrogate

An application for demolition at the rear of the property and erection of a commercial office and duplex apartment



Of recent times, very fine efforts have been made to preserve the quality of the frontage building and bring it back into beneficial use as offices. An application to renew window frames and open up old window openings (18/01849/FUL) was given consent. This building facing Tower Street now makes a very positive contribution to the conservation area. We understand that the interior has been sensitively converted with historic features preserved. These include an historic lift mechanism installed by Pickerings Ltd. of Stockton-on-Tees.

'the proposed new building with a link extension from the frontage building is a very welcome contribution. It is a good example of a modern intervention.'

We consider that the current application continues the good work that has already taken place on the premises.

Demolition of the rear building will be no loss to the conservation area, but the proposed new building with a link extension from the frontage building is a very welcome contribution. It is a good example of a modern intervention. The bold glazed link is subservient to both the original building and the replacement building, which is of suitable

Part of our role as a civic society is to monitor and comment on planning applications and development proposals.

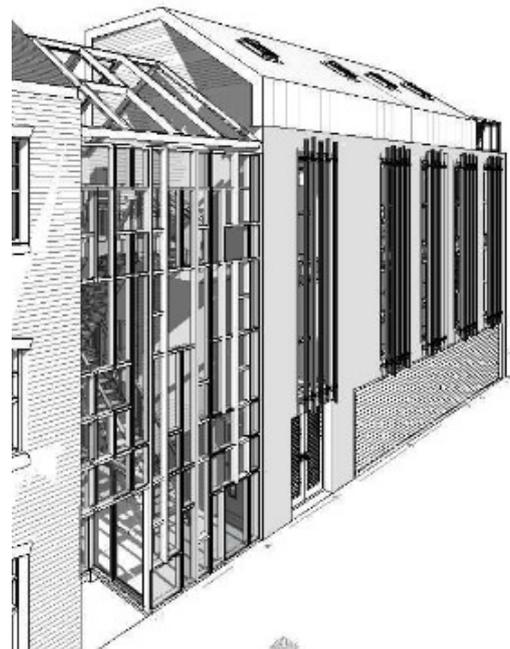
Our comments are often positive as well as neutral or negative and here is an example of a recent application that we welcomed and supported.

Henry Pankhurst reports

scale. The link building provides a recessed access and also separates the old and the new elements. The roof pitch of the new-build matches that of the original frontage building.

It is pleasing also that the bricks will be chosen to match, as will the window frames (matching the replacements in the 2018 planning consent).

We commend this proposal as a good example of a modern addition that continues the care that has been taken with the frontage building. The conservation area will benefit, due to a derelict site being brought back into suitable uses and enhanced by the design.



Applicant's proposal for new building at rear showing glazed link between new and existing buildings

With permission: Lonie Lozano Architecture Ltd

Station Gateway - our response

The Society welcomes the opportunity to improve this Gateway to the town and recognises that one of the major problems for traffic in Harrogate (in the absence of an effective bypass) is that through traffic has to use the town centre. Whilst north bound traffic can drive straight through, south bound traffic is forced around a lengthy and contorted route.

We considered that this will potentially be made worse by the proposed one lane proposal for Station Parade and expressed a strong preference for the two lane option.

The one lane option would create serious difficulties for traffic (and particularly for emergency vehicles) in the event of a vehicle breakdown in the one lane section past the bus station and the Victoria Shopping Centre and a Cheltenham Mount/Bower Road alternative route would not be workable.

Regarding James Street, the Society would strongly prefer it to remain open to vehicular traffic and to provide on street parking at all times. The possible introduction of trees is welcomed. Albert Street could be pedestrianised from Station Parade to Princes Square, or have much wider

Leeds City Region's Transforming Cities Fund is a £317 million programme of transport infrastructure investment secured as part of the West Yorkshire devolution deal.

Harrogate Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority are working together to deliver £7.9m worth of improvements in Harrogate.

Public consultation on the Station Gateway proposals closed on 24 March.

This is a summary of our response.

pavements, to encourage sitting out facilities for the restaurants.

We also commented on:

- Safety concerns on some sections where two way cycle lanes are proposed
- The relocation of taxis away from Station Parade
- The need for high quality design and materials in this part of the Conservation Area
- Safety concerns where pedestrians, users of buggies and cyclists interact
- Key issues concerning the development of Station Square and the impression given to visitors to Harrogate

The Society would like to see a study of the impact of reopening West Park and Parliament Street to (at least some) two way traffic. This could relieve many of the problems that have been identified as the reasons for these present proposals.

The full text of our submission is on the website www.harrogatecivicsociety.org



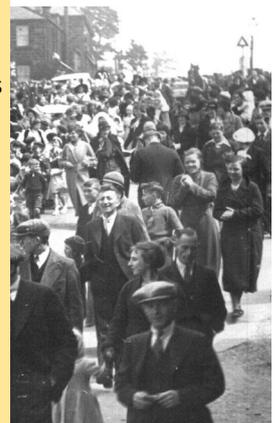
Our next event

Terry Williams:
The history of New Park: part 2

Tuesday 25 May at
7.30 pm (ZOOM)

Following on from our last talk this next instalment will look at the social history of New Park. As it developed as an industrial area (based on the gas works) it was the people who lived and worked there who gave New Park its strong community spirit. Terry's talk will lead us through this social history, accompanied by photographs from his archive.

We hope that as many members as possible will join us on Zoom, the link for which will be sent by email nearer the date to all members. It helps if we know how many to expect so please email us at events@harrogatecivicsociety.org if you plan on attending.



Devolution for North Yorkshire - Our response to the consultation

The Society organised a Zoom meeting between Cllr Carl Les, Leader of North Yorkshire County Council, Cllr Graham Swift, Deputy Leader of Harrogate Borough Council and the Committee and some members to discuss devolution prior to us submitting

our response to the Government's Open Consultation.

The main part of the consultation that we felt able to comment on was with regard to the formation of a Town Council (based on Parish Council legislation)

Harrogate Civic Society supports the creation of a Town Council - it is unusual for a town the size of Harrogate not to have its own council.

The town has a large conservation area divided into nine sub areas - again relying on local knowledge to maintain and grow them.

*North Yorkshire has a population of approx. 600,000
Harrogate District has a population of approx. 160,000
That's a quarter of North Yorkshire's
Harrogate Town has a population of approx. 75,000 .*

Together with support for the creation of a Town Council, adequate financial resources should be made available to allow the newly formed council to work effectively.

So, 1 in 8 people in North Yorkshire live in Harrogate. This is in itself an argument in favour of local governance through a Town Council.

The 200 acre Stray, although owned by the Duchy of Lancaster, is currently managed by Harrogate District Council. After devolution, the Stray should be managed locally.

The town has an amazing collection of listed buildings in public ownership and the enthusiasm and local knowledge that can go into preserving, managing and developing these assets should stay local.

The Minister is therefore urged to recognise the position and role of Harrogate in any future proposals and to ensure, at an early stage, the creation of a Town Council in accordance with the legislative tools available.

Buildings such as the Royal Hall, Royal Baths, Pump Room Museum, Mercer Gallery, Sun Pavilion are in public ownership.

The Society now has to wait for a decision from the Minister, which is due over the summer. In the meantime, we will consider the merits of a Community Consultation to speed up the process of creating a Town Council.

The town has been winner of Britain in Bloom 11 times and is a Champion of Champions town within the RHS competition scheme. That relies on local governance and coordination with the local authority. A town council will be able to enhance the efforts made to retain the gardens, parks and planted areas. Such an important aspect of the town could be lost without a local Town Council.



Could you help us with our mission for the town?

We are very keen to enlist the help of people who are interested, either to join the committee or to help with the various working groups: History, Planning and Communications.

If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in joining the committee or groups, please contact us by email on info@harrogatecivicsociety.org

Our constitution says that 'nominations for Officers and Members of the Committee shall be made in writing and signed by a Proposer and Secunder who are members of the Society and be received by the Secretary at least 14 days before the AGM.'

But we are very happy for any volunteers to be simply co-opted and formally join the Committee later by being proposed at the next AGM.

Our links with the Harrogate Community

As we enter our fiftieth anniversary year, we are keen to celebrate not only our own story but also the many other great organisations (public and private) that support and enhance our town.

On our website we list the many public, charity and community organisations with whom we have, or are establishing, links to promote the efforts we are all engaged in for the well-being of the town.

The full list can be seen [here](#) on the website.

Here we highlight one of the organisations representing Commercial Street businesses.

COMMERCIAL STREET
...standing out from the crowd

This group was set up to promote the individual and unique community of retailers on this special street in the centre of town. The Civic Society is happy to support this group which contributes greatly to the character of Harrogate.

Check them out on <https://commercial-street.co.uk/>



4 Belford Road

SAVE Britain's Heritage, which campaigns for threatened historical buildings throughout the country, selected the former Home Guard Club on Belford Road as April's building of the month. It is now listed on the Buildings at Risk register.

An article on this building appeared in our October 2020 newsletter.

The current owner has twice submitted and withdrawn applications to demolish and replace with a block of flats. It is feared that, without some kind of intervention now, the developer will achieve his goal.



Our 2021 Annual General Meeting

Last year's AGM was postponed because of the coronavirus restrictions, but this year we are planning to hold the meeting at the regular time of year - towards the end of July.

Subject to the progress of lockdown lifting, it may be possible to hold the meeting in person rather than on Zoom. We would welcome members views on the prospect of meeting face to face or should we continue with Zoom?

We will be in touch with members nearer the time to give more details.

Contact us:

General matters info@harrogatecivicsociety.org

Membership queries.. .. membership@harrogatecivicsociety.org

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