



HARROGATE
Civic Society



NEWSLETTER

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

September 2022



As guests of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, Civic Society members enjoyed a 'behind the scenes' tour of the Great Yorkshire Show on 10 July. See page 2 for a report on the event.

Dates for your diary

9 - 18 Sept

Heritage Open Days

Mostly free



Mon 19 Sept

Odeon Cinema

Tickets:

harrogatefilmsociety.org



Fri 23 Sept

Royal Hall

Box Office

01423 502 116



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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

Behind the Scenes at the Great Yorkshire Show

In July members enjoyed a behind-the-scenes visit to the Great Yorkshire Show, arranged by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society and hosted by Charles Mills.

Charles, the Show's director for the last seven years, started with a short introduction followed by a tour. It did not take long to appreciate just what a big deal the Great Yorkshire Show is.

When not otherwise engaged, Charles runs an arable and sheep farm at Appleton Roebuck and was possibly the only one of the party oblivious to the heat on a meltingly hot Sunday afternoon. A charming and extremely knowledgeable host, his fund of amusing anecdotes brought the whole experience to life with highlights almost too numerous to mention. The group enjoyed a visit to the President's Balcony (see the photo on page 1), to the sheds where the largest bulls sheltered, and outside where other cattle were being hosed down against the heat.



Civic Society members being addressed by Charles Mills, the director of the Great Yorkshire Show

Then it was off to the parlour where £175,000's worth of kit not only milked a cow with eye-watering efficiency but also tested it for ailments such as mastitis. One or two members were even allowed to sit on the cushion laid out for use by Princess Anne later in the week!

The visit was concluded with a life-saving drink, a piece of cake and a lot of jollity before departing with huge thanks to new-found friends at the Yorkshire Agricultural Society.

Harrogate and District Allotment Federation Show

Once again, the Civic Society was pleased to support the Allotment Federation's Show in the Sun Pavilion, Valley Gardens, on Sunday 21 August.

We were able to display our new membership leaflets, guides on the plaque trails, bookmarks, Heritage Open Days programmes and information about forthcoming events.

Most importantly, we talked to people. Our stall attracted a steady flow of interest from local residents, visitors to Harrogate and representatives of other societies and organisations. We thank all the volunteers who helped.

This was just one of the efforts we are making to publicise the work of the Civic Society and to maintain links with other groups and organizations in the town.

We thank the Federation organizers for an excellent event.



Harrogate Railway Station: 160 Years of History

Nigel McClea writes:

In our last Newsletter we previewed the exhibition **Welcome to Harrogate Railways**, the brainchild of Society member Terry Williams. Principally designed to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the Railway Station (but with fascinating detail about the Barber line taking coal to the gas works of New Park and the railway connections that at one time radiated from Harrogate) the exhibition has proved a phenomenal success. So much so that the railway authorities with whom we partnered (Network Rail, Northern and LNER) have decided to extend the life of the exhibition until at least the end of December.

So, if you have not yet had an opportunity to visit, you have another chance. We expect the exhibition to reopen to the public at Harrogate Railway Station on **the first Saturday and Sunday of each month (September, October, November, and December) between 10:00am and 3:00pm.**

This reopening is unanticipated and a very great compliment to Terry and his team.

As before, the exhibition will be free but donations to the railway's charity of choice, Cancer Research UK, will be welcome. Over £300 has been raised so far.



Part of the exhibition held in the former business space of the station concourse



The Mayor (Cllr Victoria Oldham), Terry Williams, members of the Civic Society, Station staff and volunteers

Two more Brown Plaques

In September two more plaques will be added to the Heritage Plaques of Harrogate, bringing the total number to just short of 100. Full details of all the plaques can be found on our dedicated website www.harrogateplaques.org



The first plaque traces the history of the magnificent chapel on Grove Road from its construction in 1896 to its recent restoration.

The second plaque will commemorate Louis Cope, the founder of the legendary fashion design store at the corner of Parliament Street and Cheltenham Parade.



A Royal Walk

The launch of *Royal Walk*, the Society's latest town guide, took place on 23 August. Created in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, *Royal Walk* is a joint venture by the Society and the Harrogate Dramatic Society with the support of Harrogate Borough Council. **Nigel McClea** (Harrogate Civic Society and **Chris Rawson** (Harrogate Dramatic Society) report on the event:



The group of members at the start of the walk, pictured opposite Cathcart House on West Park . Harry Satloka and Stuart Holland led the walk and are pictured on the right of the photo.

Below: Location 3 on the walk: the Victoria Monument and Statue

Earlier in the year, discussions took place between Harrogate Civic Society and Harrogate Dramatic Society to see how the two organizations could work more closely together for the mutual benefit of both organizations and ultimately that of Harrogate. The result was a walk, a get together and a play.

So, on 23 August, Stuart Holland, chair of Harrogate Civic Society, and Harry Satloka of Harrogate Walking Tours led 25 or so members on the inauguration of the Royal Walk and obviously enjoyed tag teaming the imparting of information about the buildings and architecture. Facts and anecdotes came thick and fast, with particular reference to the town's many royal connections but encompassing so much more as well.

The walkers then retired to the (appropriately named) Crown Hotel and there joined with other members of both societies, Cllr Victoria Oldham, Mayor of Harrogate, and invited members of the local press to celebrate and formally launch the Royal Walk Guide.

After tea and cake, Lesley Wheal, Alan Harwood, Edward Simpson and Janet Wilson from the HDS, gave us a funny and spirited performance of *I Never Thought It Would Be Like This* by Evelyn Hood. Then we all clapped and went home. A lovely afternoon.

The Royal Walk is an important addition to the resources available to those visiting the town. Leaflets with a full description of the walk and information on all the locations visited are available through various outlets, including the library and the tourist information office.

The two societies look forward to future ventures which will benefit all our members.



Heritage Open Days 2022

With thanks to Kevin Hales, volunteer member and lead coordinator

This year's Heritage Open Days programme in Harrogate is the most varied and interesting for some years.

23 venues will be opening their doors during the ten days from 9 to 18 September. These present a fascinating mix of the town's historical, cultural, civic and religious sites for people to explore, mostly with expert guides on hand.

Harrogate Civic Society has for many years helped to coordinate participation by local venues.

This year we have been supported by Harrogate Spring Water in the production of the comprehensive guide to what's on (*shown right*). We are grateful for that support.

Copies of the guide have been distributed to all members.

Please note that with some venues, places are limited and prior booking is required.

So, book soon as places are filling fast!



We acknowledge the help and support of Harrogate Spring Water in the production of the HODs guide.

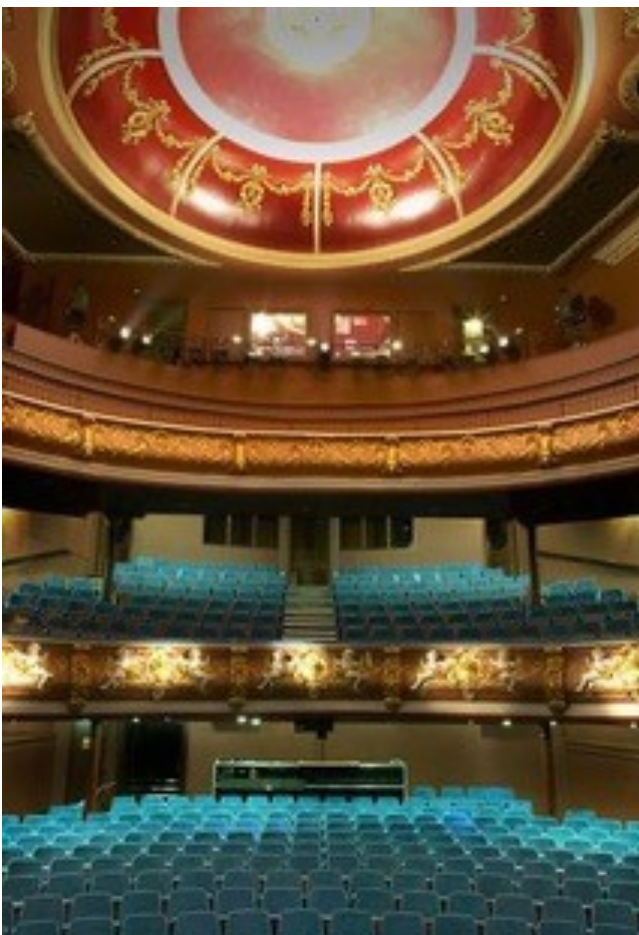
A foreword from the Mayor, Cllr Victoria Oldham

I'm delighted that, once again, so many of our finest heritage buildings, organisations and sites have opened their doors to the public, for free, as part of the national Heritage Open Days festival. What better way for them to display such impressive aspects of Harrogate's long, fascinating and ever-changing culture and history - including some 'hidden secrets' that we rarely get a chance to see.

I'm especially thrilled to see that in 2022, after two years of tough restrictions, Harrogate has a bumper programme of events to offer across the ten days, and I want to thank all participants, especially the many volunteers, for joining in and being heritage ambassadors for our great town and borough.

I think we can all be proud that Harrogate has so much intriguing heritage to show off and I hope you will enjoy the places you visit as much as I will.

Right: an early photograph of Grove House, home of Samson Fox. Open on Friday 16 between 11.30 and 16.00



Above: Harrogate Theatre tours are arranged for Friday 16 September at various times

Photo courtesy Harrogate Theatres

An Update on Local Government Reorganisation

A summary by John Fox

Devolution - what is the deal?

It is just a little over 6 months until the new single council for North Yorkshire replaces the eight current local authorities. Last month was a very significant month in this change programme. Yorkshire Day saw the announcement and signing of a proposed devolution deal for York and North Yorkshire.

The proposed 30 year devolution deal could deliver funding for key policies and strategies, providing better roads and public transport, increasing affordable housing, improving education and career opportunities locally, boosting the economy and placing York and North Yorkshire at the forefront of climate friendly business growth. The deal could also give people who live in the region the chance to directly elect a mayor for York and North Yorkshire. A mayor would champion our region at a national level and increase access to new and more funding. The mayor could oversee upwards of £540million of Government investment. The deal is currently being considered by councillors and this month they will decide whether to take it forward to public consultation before the end of the year.

If the councillors agree to consult the residents, there will be a 12 week public consultation mid-October 2022 to January 2023, with Mayoral Elections in Spring 2024.

Details of the York and North Yorkshire devolution deal can be read [here](#).

A Town Council for Harrogate?

The 'Community Governance Review'

Harrogate and Scarborough are the only major towns in North Yorkshire not to have a parish or town council. So, in a move to ensure residents have a strong say in decision-making at the most local level, residents of both Harrogate and Scarborough are being invited to give their views on creating councils for the two towns in a consultation which started on Monday 22 August. The **closing date is Friday 30 September**. We encourage all Society members to look at the consultation and have your say. At this stage, no firm proposals are being put forward. Depending on the response to this consultation, a further consultation on detailed proposals could follow in February 2023 – April 2023, with Parish Council elections being held in May 2024.

For full details of the consultation and how to respond visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/CGR.

Please make your views known either online or by filling in the paper response form.

A paper version of the online survey form can be obtained from the Council Offices (Civic Centre), Harrogate Library or Bilton Community Library.

The Civic Society will be formulating its response and we would be happy to hear members' views if you contact us on info@harrogatecivicsociety.org



Local tourism, management of The Stray, parks and gardens, grass cutting, street cleaning, minor highway works and many local initiatives could be devolved to a town council.

Besides a town council, other options being considered are:

- A 'community network'
- A town council with a community network
- A committee of local county councillors

Assets of Community Value

Buildings or land which are considered to be of value to the local community can be registered as Assets of Community Value (ACVs). Community groups, such as parish councils, conservation groups and civic societies can ask the local authority to list certain assets as being of value to the community.

The local authority then has to make a decision on whether to include the land or building on its register. This would mean that if the owner of the property wanted to sell it, they must tell the council. The community group then has the opportunity to buy the property.

The council would impose a six-month moratorium which would give the community time to raise the capital and submit a bid.

Harrogate Borough Council maintains a list of successful nominations for ACV status and also lists of unsuccessful nominations. This can be accessed on

<https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/downloads/download/120/assets-of-community-value-downloads>

Periodically, properties will be removed from the list. Most frequently this is because an ACV only lasts for a five-year period and when that expires the property is removed from the list.

There is only one site in Harrogate town which is listed as an ACV and that is the Pinewoods, nominated by the Pinewoods Conservation Group. In 2015, the Civic Society nominated the former council offices in Crescent Gardens, but that was unsuccessful.

Successful: The Pinewoods



Successful: The Crown Inn, Grewelthorpe



Unsuccessful: Crescent Gardens



Forthcoming Events in 2022

9 – 18 Sept	Heritage Open Days See page 5 for details
Thursday 15 September 2.00 pm	Visit to Allerton Castle This event is now fully booked
Monday 19 September 2.30 and 7.30pm	Harrogate on Film Tickets going fast! Go to harrogatefilmsociety.org to book
Friday 23 September 14.30 and 19.00	The Man who Captured Sunlight A play based on the life of Samson Fox. Book through the theatre box office
Tuesday 25 October 7.30pm	Schooldays in Edwardian Harrogate A talk by Dr Paul Jennings to be held at St Paul's URC hall, Belford Road (off Victoria Avenue)
Tuesday 29 November	The Harrogate Convention Centre: its purpose and future A talk by the Centre Director, Paula Lorimer (to be held at the Centre)
Sunday 11 December	Christmas Social At St Wilfrid's Parish Hall. Final details will be given in the November newsletter.
First Saturday and Sunday in September, October, November and December	Welcome to Harrogate Railways - a 160th Anniversary Exhibition By popular request, this exhibition, first held on 30/31 July is to open again for visitors on four weekends up to December.

The 2023 programme of events is in preparation and more information will appear in the next newsletter.

Paying for events

By bank transfer: Name: Harrogate Civic Society. Sort Code: 05-04-54. Account: 167 465 95

By cheque: post to Mr C R Dicken, HCS Treasurer, 74 Otley Road, Harrogate, HG2 0DP

Reference: please use your name, followed by the date DDMM (day/month) of the 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.

Talks will be advertised to our link groups and the general public. They will be free for members unless otherwise stated. There will be a £5.00 head charge for non-members. Early booking is recommended.

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

Contact us:

Chairman: Stuart Holland	..	Tel: 01423 500089
General matters	info@harrogatecivicsociety.org
Membership queries..	membership@harrogatecivicsociety.org
Event bookings	events@harrogatecivicsociety.org

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