

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

MINUTES OF THE YHACS MEETING HELD ON 26th OCTOBER 2019 IN THE NELSON ROOM AT THE TOWN HALL, PONTEFRACT

DELEGATES PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - See Appendix 1

1. Welcome from Kevin Trickett, Chair of YHACS

Kevin welcomed delegates, and thanked Pontefract Civic Society members for their help in organising the venue and arranging the programme of activities that had commenced with an enjoyable dinner at Rogerthorpe Manor on Friday evening.

2. Welcome from Paul Cartwright, Chair of Pontefract Civic Society and Michael Sayles-Fox, Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and Patron of Pontefract Civic Society

In welcoming members from the civic society movement across the region, Paul pointed out that the Society was celebrating its 50th Anniversary and gave a resumé of the various ways in which the Society was continuing to promote the town through its many events.

He drew members' attention to the original fine plaster cast at the rear of the room. The room, known as the Nelson Room, had been so named in 1855 when the plaster cast model of Nelson's death scene was donated to the Town. The cast was one of four sculptured by I E Carew and used to mould brass castings for Nelson's Column in London.

Michael Sayles-Fox gave members attending a warm welcome and looked forward to what he was sure would be an interesting and stimulating meeting.

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 27th July 2019 in Selby Town Hall.

These were proposed by Erica Amende of Spen Valley Civic Society, seconded by Alan Nicholson of Grimsby and Cleethorpes Civic Society and approved by the meeting.

4. Matters arising

None were raised.

5. Chairman's Report

Kevin reported with great sadness on the sudden death of YHACS Treasurer, Richard Ward on 2nd September 2019. Richard, a founder member of YHACS (then YHASA) in 1999, was a member of Huddersfield Civic Society, Scarborough & District Civic Society and Scalby Village Trust.

As Treasurer of YHACS for more than ten years, he held the office with distinction – and at times displaying a laconic humour. Kevin pointed out how great an asset to the Committee Richard had been, able to use his experience as a former solicitor to ensure that YHACS' governance issues were of the highest standard. His contribution to YHACS affairs as a committee member and friend will be much missed.

Kevin reported on trips he had made to Morecambe and Bexhill pursuing his interest in Art Deco and announced a new role he had taken on as Regional Coordinator for the "*Art Deco Society UK – ADSUK.*"

He thanked contributors to the Newsletter and urged more Societies to consider contributing. It would be good to receive articles about unusual events and activities that would be of interest to other societies who might even wish to adopt the ideas for their own programmes.

With this in mind, he reported on “Ghost Walks” he had been leading in Wakefield and how the Society had responded positively to an unexpected request to lead such walks. They had proved incredibly popular, even though the Society had taken great care to make it clear that there were no ghosts on the ‘ghost walks’ – and the walks had been fully booked within days of them being offered, attracting many people who had no previous interaction with the Society and some of those had joined the Society in consequence.

Kevin reminded members that entries for the YHACS/Peter Spawforth Awards were again being sought.

Finally, Kevin urged members who had yet to book places at the YHACS 20th Anniversary Lunch at the Principal Hotel in York on 23rd November to do so as soon as possible.

6. Treasurer’s Report

Alan Goodrum (Halifax Civic Trust) had kindly offered to take on the role of Treasurer and the process of installing him in office was in progress.

In the meantime, the account was reported by Kevin Trickett to have a healthy balance of around £5,300 although this included approximately £400 held on behalf of Market Weighton Civic Society.

7. Guest Speakers

Councillor Lynn Masterman, Heritage Champion for Wakefield Council, gave a talk about her new role, citing examples of the work Wakefield Council had done with developments at Pontefract Castle, Sandal Castle, Kirkgate Station and the Old Court House in Wood Street.

She reported that 70% of Local Authorities had “Heritage Champions”, but in later questions from the floor, it emerged that the level of participation in the YHACS region appeared to fall far short of this.

John Walker, Stakeholder Engagement Officer for Historic England, based in Newcastle, spoke about the value of heritage, art and culture to placemaking in the North East and Yorkshire. He referenced work on the “High Streets Initiative” being rolled out in 10 urban centres.

In a comment from the floor the importance of using heritage and culture to promote tourism and economic development was stressed.

At this point, the meeting was adjourned to allow refreshments to be served to members.

Jenny Layfield, Director of the National Coal Mining Museum for England and Chair of Wakefield Cultural Consortium, gave her talk about “**Cultural Cities – A Miracle Cure?**” Citing the example of Hull as City of Culture, she noted how a series of events over the year had positively changed the perception of the city and stimulated visitor numbers. Other examples – such as at Nostell Priory in Wakefield - where cultural events and heritage had been used to drive the economy forward, were presented and discussed.

In questions, some asked how heritage attractions, which are often quite expensive for family visits, could be made available to the less well-off. This was acknowledged but it was pointed out that many venues offered occasional free entry, eg for Heritage Open Days and on other occasions. There was also a discuss on what the role of Tourist Offices were in the era of easy access to web-based information.

8. Just a Minute – a round-up of news and views from Societies

Halifax Civic Trust reported the positive impacts of both the “*Gentleman Jack*” TV series and the reopening after renovation of the Piece Hall.

Geoff Walsh of the Yorkshire Society reminded members of its work and sought to engage more with Civic Societies and advised that they can offer speakers for talks. Civic Yorkshire day in 2020 will be in Rotherham. Their website is <https://theyorkshiresociety.org>

Whitby Civic Society have a new Conservation Area brochure available and are concerned about the impact of holiday homes that are often unoccupied for long periods.

Alan Nicholson for Grimsby and Cleethorpes reported on how their programme of speaker events had boosted membership. They were planning a “*Mayflower 400*” event in 2020.

Margaret Hicks-Clark of Goole reported on their “*Goole at its Best*” themed 2020 Calendar, copies of which can be purchased from the Society.

9. Civic Voice Issues

Paul Cartwright updated the members on the Regional Forum reporting on funding issues, “Building Better, Building Beautiful”, the Local Authority statement on community involvement, and the role of Heritage Champions.

10. AOB

None

9. Date of next meetings:

25th January 2020, AGM, Cedar Court Hotel, Harrogate

25th April 2020, Beverley

25th July 2020, Addingham

Autumn 2020 Bids please!

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF PEOPLE ATTENDING AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

	Society	Surname	First Name
1	Brighthouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
2	Brighthouse Civic Trust	Thraves	Robert
3	Doncaster Civic Trust	Kimber	Steve
4	Dronfield Civic Society	Hinchcliffe	Jon
5	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
6	Goole Civic Society/YHACS/Market Weighton Civic Society	Hicks-Clarke	Margaret
7	Grimsby and Cleethorpes Civic Society	Nicholson	Alan
8	Halifax Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Goodrum	Alan
9	Leeds Civic Trust	Kitchin	Lynda
10	Leeds Civic Trust	Taylor	Jane
11	Ossett Civic Trust	Amos	Ruth
12	Ossett Civic Trust	Driver	Rachel
13	Ossett Civic Trust	Fawcett	Anne-Marie
14	Ossett Civic Trust	Mitchell	David
15	Pontefract Civic Society	Barnes	Rosemary
16	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
17	Pontefract Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Cartwright	Paul
18	Pontefract Civic Society	Cook	Phil
19	Pontefract Civic Society	Edwards	Jaydn
20	Pontefract Civic Society	Garbett	Mollie
21	Pontefract Civic Society	Hogg	Dave
22	Pontefract Civic Society	Sayles-Fox, DL	Michael
23	Pontefract Civic Society	Skidmore	Mike
24	Pontefract Civic Society	White, Dr	Colin
25	Richmond Civic Society	Hillyard	Carol
26	Saddleworth Civic Trust	Baumann	Charles
27	Saddleworth Civic Trust	Harrison	David
28	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen
29	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
30	Scarborough Civic Society	Cooper	Alison
31	Scarborough Civic Society/YHACS Committee Member/Market Weighton Civic Society	Cooper	Peter
32	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Adrian
33	Scarborough Civic Society	Perry	Christine
34	Selby Civic Society	Clegg	Marie
35	Selby Civic Society/YHACS/Market Weighton Civic Society	Moss	David
36	Wakefield Civic Society	Dell	Fay
37	Wakefield Civic Society	Dell	John

38	Wakefield Civic Society	Farman	Sue
39	Wakefield Civic Society	Holwell	Margaret
40	Wakefield Civic Society	Smith	Val
41	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Pat
42	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
43	Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS Committee Member/Market Weighton Civic Society	Trickett	Kevin
44	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
45	Whitby Civic Society	Curr	Carolyn
46	Whitby Civic Society	Stangoe	Joyce
47	Yorkshire Society/Pontefract Civic Society	Walsh	Geoff
	Guest Speakers:		
48	Cllr Lynn Masterman, Wakefield Council		
49	Jenny Layfield, NCMME, Wakefield Cultural Consortium		
50	John Walker, Historic England		
	Apologies Received		
1	Addingham Civic Society	Robinson	Linda
2	Addingham Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Robinson	Jim
3	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Geoff
4	Barnsley Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Barnes	Phyllis
5	Beverley Civic Society	Payne	Jane
6	Bradford Civic Society	Hall	Alan
7	Civic Voice	Harvey	Ian
8	Goole Civic Society	Walker	Stephen
9	Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust	Bassett	Graeme
10	Halifax Civic Trust	Paxton-White	June
11	Harrogate Civic Society	Amaku	Susan
12	Ilkley Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Kidman	Helen
13	Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Leonard	Tony
14	Sheffield Civic Trust/Civic Voice	Bedwell	Paul
15	Skipton in Craven Civic Society	Clarke	Sheila
16	Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff