



YORKSHIRE & HUMBER
Association of Civic Societies

Member of



SOCIETY INSIGHT

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**"CONSERVATION
ISSUES"**

CONSERVATION: 50 YEARS OF HERITAGE PLANNING

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Planners, planning consultants and academics from across the country assembled in the grand surroundings of The Hospitium in York recently for a celebration hosted by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) of the achievements in the heritage field since the introduction of Conservation Areas in 1967.



- In 1967 Conservation Areas were born
- Today there are 875
- The first Councils to act were York, Wakefield, Doncaster and Kirklees



Trevor Mitchell from Historic England was the first speaker and had entitled his talk **"102 years of heritage planning: a Yorkshire perspective"**. This proved to be something of a history lesson, but interesting nevertheless. He ended with the catchphrase *"Heritage delivers growth"*.

The key speaker was next. This was Les Sparks O.B.E. who is a Conservation architect/planner and Urban Designer. He had unashamedly entitled his talk **"The phenomenal story of Conservation"** and started in 1877 with the establishment of SPAB (The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings). Eventually he got to 1967 and very adequately covered the whole development of Conservation Areas. Prior to the passing of the 1967 Act, the Government had commissioned studies jointly with four local authorities to examine how conservation policies might be sensibly applied. These four studies looked at Bath, Chester, Chichester and York. He remarked that the City of York was robustly opposed to the enforcement upon it of the need to create Conservation Areas, arguing it was already doing what it should be doing! The Labour Council Leader at the time allegedly made one expert who had been sent to see him extremely unwelcome and telling him that *"We don't like consultants here!"*

Next to the podium came our own Kevin Trickett as YHACS Chair talking about the Civic Voice campaign **"The Big Conservation Conversation"**. With the challenging title of **"Who cares?"** Kevin showed us images of appalling neglect in Conservation Areas (*right*) and suggested that when many people talk of conservation, what they are really meaning is the





preservation of “the look”.

He then moved on to some good examples of development in Conservation Areas. He reminded the audience that civic societies are there with a font of independent local knowledge waiting to help councils and developers with the preservation of Conservation Areas, but they do need recognition for their work.

He pleaded for more planning enforcement and finished off with a quotation: *‘Planning authorities are working under very difficult conditions at the moment with recent legislation increasing workload, shortage of space and staff, and not being helped by the general effects of cutbacks in spending.’* And then revealed that it was from the then Civic Trust in 1969!

To conclude the morning session, Ian Smith from Historic England spoke to **“Craven: a new look at assessing Conservation Areas”**. He told us about the experimental Conservation Area appraisal he had organised in Craven using modern computer technology with a new concept of “layering” maps. The study had provided a very useful template for future appraisals.

After lunch, Dr John Tanner (Barnsley MBC Heritage Development) gave an interesting talk about **“Heritage and Regeneration in Barnsley”**. This included the refurbishment of Barnsley Town Hall and its environs, including the Cooper Gallery where YHACS has its next quarterly meeting (and at which John Tanner will be one of the speakers). He also spoke about works effected at Cannon Hall with HLF money and the development of the heritage centre at Elsecar.

Next up was Alex Codd (Hull City Council Planning Manager) with a talk entitled **“Repurposing Hull Old Town”**. He explained enthusiastically how the “City of Culture” award had opened up the potential for huge development in Hull, with side effects such as substantial street refurbishment and the placing of modern Artworks. He said there were huge opportunities to reinvigorate Hull, a city with a long and proud history. He told us about Urban Panel/English Heritage support for an Urban Village concept for the Old Town, which is seen as a residential and business area as well as a key visitor destination. Old buildings are being converted to provide housing and new commercial activities are being encouraged.



.....there is huge development potential in disused textile mills. Yorkshire apparently currently contains 1365 vacant or underused mills....

Then rounding off the event came Stephen Miles (Cushman & Wakefield) with **“Textile Mills: Engines of Prosperity for the North”** reminding those of us that needed reminding that there is huge development potential in disused textile mills. Yorkshire apparently currently contains 1365 vacant or underused mills which with “constructive conservation” could be converted into, for example, 27000 new homes. He gave examples of successful conversions such as

Sunnybank Mills in Leeds and Dean Clough, Halifax. Finally, Stephen explained about and sought to encourage the creation of Textile Mill Investment Strategies involving a partnership between local authorities, developers and others to facilitate funding opportunities.

All in all it was a rewarding day, well organised by the Yorkshire branch of the RTPI, despite problems with the sound system which were not of their making.

**Richard Ward
YHACS**



Photos in this article have been abstracted from copies of slides kindly supplied by speakers at the event

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

As you will see from our front cover article by Richard Ward, I was invited to speak at an RTPI conference on conservation earlier this year. The audience consisted of professionals from local authorities and developers amongst others as well as a small number of civic society members.

In such august company, my presentation, which was about Conservation Areas in particular, posed the perhaps provocative question **'Who Cares?'**. From my own experience of walking round Conservation Areas in my home city and elsewhere, I see some very depressing examples of neglect; one can only deduce, therefore, that the property owners in these cases certainly don't care.

So what of the local authority? Well, a mixed bag. Overstretched conservation and planning officers may not have the resources to walk the streets and chase up owners, let alone take the necessary enforcement action and it may be that the only time the local authority intervenes is if a planning application is submitted for a given property. So, it may seem harsh to suggest local authorities don't care, but decisions made at local (and national level) to allocate limited funds to other priorities suggests that local and national government may not care *enough* to divert sufficient resources to conservation matters.

Perhaps that would change if local residents rose up and demanded action? Well, in some places this may well happen by and large, while local residents might tut, perhaps they too don't care enough to petition their local councils (or government ministers) to argue the case for action (which would perhaps then see a more generous allocation of resources).

So if not owners, if not the councils, if not local residents, then who is left to fight the cause? Well, the obvious answer has to be local civic societies and I believe we have a vital role to play but we need to set out our stall.

The points I made to the RTPI conference were that civic societies were fonts of



local knowledge – they will know the history of the place and will usually have good contacts, etc. They will often have a long ‘collective memory’ as many committee members go back a long way and may have been in post longer than some of the conservation and planning officers employed by their local authority.

Civic societies also offer both continuity and consistency in their approach. Through participation in community-based consultations, societies are able to work with planners, conservation staff, developers and property owners as ‘honest brokers’. Some societies will have the resources to be able to help with Conservation Area appraisals.

Importantly, civic society members can act as the ‘eyes on the ground’ – they are more likely to spot something that is wrong or needs attention but communication channels with conservation and planning officers need to be open.

However, I also pointed out that societies are volunteer-led bodies with no statutory powers. This means that to tap into our expertise, professionals need to be prepared to invite us to the table, to be willing to listen to us and to recognise the contribution we can make. Through Wakefield Civic Society, I have myself been involved in detailed discussion and scrutiny of planning proposals, sometimes taking up hours of our time. We’ve taken part in lengthy consultations and, I’d like to believe, made a positive contribution to ensuring

.....to tap into our expertise, professionals need to be prepared to invite us to the table, to be willing to listen to us and to recognise the contribution we can make.

that the best possible schemes are approved – only to be overlooked when the credits roll or to find our name missing

from the list of organisations invited to the opening night party!

Now I don’t want to be overly pessimistic about the state of our Conservation Areas. There are, of course, many good examples of how to do conservation well, and I’ve seen some very pleasing results when a developer or property owner with access to the necessary funds is prepared to work with the local authority and others to achieve some very satisfying results. I like to think that, when it comes to Conservation Areas, it’s more of a glass half-full situation we find ourselves in. But it’s a situation that needs constant vigilance!

It’s the fiftieth anniversary of the first Conservation Areas this year, so a golden opportunity indeed to make the case for good conservation and to draw the public’s attention to why conservation of our heritage assets matters. I know many of our member societies are planning events and activities to do just this during the coming months and are picking up on the lead from Civic Voice to make Civic Day on 17th June a celebration of our Conservation Areas.

Whether or not your society has decided on what to do for Civic Day, I do encourage you to come along to our meeting in Barnsley on 29th April where we will be having our own Big Conservation Conversation.

Kevin Trickett

DONCASTER'S CONSERVATION AREAS ...AND A NEW WALK AROUND THEM



High Street Conservation Area includes the Mansion House



Doncaster Civic Trust covers all the Metropolitan Borough which contains 46 conservation areas.

It wasn't always like this.

Before local government reorganisation in 1974 a few rural villages had been designated by the West Riding County Council, but the old Doncaster County Borough Council, which covered the town itself, was very slow and had eventually to be nudged by the Trust into designating the first areas after we published a conservation report in 1973.

Now all the historic core of the town which wasn't bulldozed for a ring road or an Arndale Centre in the 1960s is designated as a series of adjoining conservation areas. So too are nearby Edwardian and Victorian residential areas.

.....So, it should all be perfect. Unfortunately it isn't.....there are gaps in the legislation which give a great deal of freedom to people who wish to make harmful changes in conservation areas....

Today, we often assist the Planning Department with Conservation Area Appraisals by providing information on buildings and their architects. Not only does it all help strengthen the designation of Key Unlisted Buildings but in some cases we have secured upgrading of designations, most recently from Positive to Key Unlisted for a late Victorian warehouse with fine decorative brickwork.

So, it should all be perfect. Unfortunately it isn't. As we all know there are gaps in the legislation which give a great deal of freedom to people who wish to make harmful changes in conservation areas to windows, doors and roofs. Each appraisal carries with it a recommendation of Article 4 Directions but they are never implemented due no doubt to the cost of managing them.



Hall Cross Hill



Hall Cross Hill, part of the South Parade Conservation Area

Nevertheless, the conservation area legislation is to be celebrated.

This summer, on Civic Day and other days too we are introducing a new Heritage Walk called 'From Romans to Racing'. This will go through five conservation areas (High Street, Market Place, Minster, Bennethorpe and South Parade). It is open to all at a cost of £5.

If you would like to go they will also operate on 6th May, as part of our Heritage Festival, 9th July and 19th August, all starting at 10.30am. Please ring Tourist Information on 01302 734309 to book.

Civic Day is also a James Paine day, as part of the James Paine Tercentenary festival which is funded jointly between Doncaster Civic Trust and the Friends of the Mansion House. Paine designed the Mansion House which stands at the heart of our High Street Conservation area and the building will be open to the public.

.....we are introducing a new Heritage Walk called 'From Romans to Racing'..... through five conservation areas....

**Peter Coote
Doncaster Civic Trust**

Photos courtesy of Peter Coote



AM I A TRUSTEE OF MY CIVIC SOCIETY?

This is a question I was asked at a recent event and it is a very important one which, unfortunately, is not infrequently raised. It is important because it is the trustees who are ultimately liable for the acts of the organisation and who are or should be covered by trustee indemnity insurance.

The Charity Commission, in its publication **The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do (CC3)**, available at <http://bit.ly/1Q2cHTz> says:

"If you are involved in running a charity but don't know whether you are a trustee, check the charity's governing document. (This is the document that sets out the charity's rules; it may be a constitution, trust deed, articles of association or similar document.) It will tell you which body has ultimate authority and responsibility for directing and governing the charity. All properly appointed members of that body are charity trustees in law, whatever they are called (trustees, directors, committee members, governors or something else)."

In its publication **Model constitution for an unincorporated charity**, available at <http://bit.ly/2oPS1ak> the Charity Commission includes the following:

- "17. Officers and trustees
(1) The charity and its property shall be managed and administered by a

committee comprising the officers and other members elected in accordance with this constitution. **The officers and other members of the committee shall be the trustees of the Charity.**"

This is crystal clear.

However, I suspect there will be very few, if any, of our members who have this (modern) wording. Some of the older ones I have seen range from antiquated and thus difficult to understand wording, through woolly wording which can be manipulated in order for it to be construed in whatever way it is desired to be construed and even plain absence of any reference to trustees!

“....The officers and other members of the committee shall be the trustees of the Charity.”

All Constitutions are different and it is therefore a question of scrutinising your own society’s governing document in order to ascertain the means by which the identity of its trustees is defined. If your governing document is silent on the matter, you should assume that all your committee members are trustees - it’s likely that the Charity Commission will make that assumption in any dealings they may have with your society. If you need any help with this, please contact me.

If in doubt, replace your Constitution with a modern one which everyone can follow!

**Richard Ward
YHACS**

ADDINGHAM CIVIC SOCIETY LAUNCH THEIR VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Recently in this wonderful publication we’ve done a piece on our ‘Green’ environment initiative, our ‘Blue’ plaques scheme and this time it’s an item about something ‘Black and White and Read all over’.....oh that’s dreadful and really corny!



ADDINGHAM - Village News

www.addingham-pc.gov.uk
www.addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk

A NEW Approach to Village News!
Your Parish Council and Civic Society working together

This newsletter is a joint production by the Parish Council and Civic Society, and we'll aim to get paper copies round to **green, house, pub, club and business in the village** at least twice a year.

If you're reading someone else's copy, or picked one up from a shop or business, and think you didn't get one through your door, please let us know—we need to ensure our distribution list is as comprehensive as possible. We are relying on volunteers to hand deliver the copies, so please bear with us while we get this right. If you can help deliver a few in your area, just let us know!

The newsletter is part-funded by advertising. If you are a business or offer a service to Addingham residents, you can find out more about our (very modest) advertising costs by contacting the Civic Society.

If you would like to contribute an article or feature for publication in future editions of the newsletter, please contact the Parish Council.

We hope you enjoy reading this first edition—send us all your comments and feedback to help us make this into something we can all use and enjoy!

The Parish Council is currently refurbishing the Old School which houses the Community Library and meeting room above—see inside for details.

How to contact us:
Parish Council: clerk@addingham-pc.gov.uk
Civic Society: chairman@addinghamcivicsociety.co.uk

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The Parish Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month - come along and find out what happens!
- Watch out for information on the Tour de Yorkshire coming through the village again this year on 30th April
- The Civic Society's Environment Group is working on a wildflower project - full details to be published shortly!

Brackley Ghyll Golf Club
01943-431287

www.brackleyghyllgolfclub.co.uk
Memberships available



Working closely with our Parish Council we have just launched our first edition of a Village Newsletter. It's a 12 page, full colour A5 publication which we are hoping to issue 3 times per annum. The print run was 2100 with 22 volunteers delivering it to every household in the Village (circa 1850). The rest was delivered to the businesses (5 pubs, Social Club, shops, sports clubs, etc). The electronic version was emailed to outside bodies, our local MP and other interested persons.

It was in the planning stage for a long time with the two major stumbling blocks being:

1. Getting an Editor and
2. Securing the necessary funding.

The Parish Clerk 'stepped up to the plate' and has done a brilliant 'Editorial' job, the Parish Council agreed to help with funding and we secured £650 in advertisement revenue from around 40 local businesses and organisations. The Society has agreed to help part-fund future editions if required.

We charged £5 for a small text only advertisement and £20 for an advertisement in a box with logo, text and in colour. They were snapped up and we now have a waiting list for the next edition in Aug/Sept time. In some cases one of our Trustees (who has a background in marketing and design) helped with the artwork.

It has editorial pieces from me and the Chair of the Parish Council. It covers developments on the Housing and Planning front, the Environment Group, the Village Totally Locally Body (group of local businesses), a re-launch of the Village Social Club, the Cricket Club, plus a couple of others. It has a 'What's On' page covering Village regular events and activities covering the next 6 months or so, a list of all the Clubs and Societies (30 plus) in the Village and of the course the advertisements.

In the next one we'll be asking for contributions from different sources and so far already we've had two people who want to write a piece. By delivering it to the pubs and shops we are looking for it to be picked up by visitors to the Village.

Jim Robinson



OLIVER SARONY **1820 - 1879**

We have previously considered placing a Blue Plaque to commemorate an outstanding Scarborough character but have always been unable to find a surviving building where Oliver Sarony, the famous photographer, either lived or worked until we discovered the information at an exhibition which was displayed at St Martin's Church as part of Heritage Open Days.

We plan to unveil the plaque on Civic Day.

I use the word "character" because few people's CV would start with him running a business selling beaver skins for hats, and carrying contraband silk between Canada and New York!

While in America he used all his money to buy equipment and trained as a daguerreotypist. The Daguerreotype process was the first photographic process, and for nearly twenty years, it was the one most commonly used.



When Oliver came to the UK he travelled from place to place working as an itinerant photographer in outlying towns and villages, and people who perhaps had never had the opportunity to visit a studio before flocked to him to have their likeness taken. In

1857 he set up a number of studios. These he operated on a seasonal basis, spending

....The studio that he commissioned was one of the grandest in Europe. Built in the Louis XV style, Sarony called the premises Gainsborough House.

the summer and autumn in Scarborough and the first part of the year in other towns. His career as an itinerant photographer had clearly been profitable enough to finance a permanent studio and he commissioned the local firm of John and David Petch, architects, to build a new photographic studio, which was opened on Monday 12th July 1858.

The studio that he commissioned was one of the grandest in Europe. Built in the Louis XV style, Sarony called the premises Gainsborough House. Sarony's studio was particularly celebrated for its coloured work - photographs worked over in watercolour or oil paint.

There were approximately forty rooms in use and in 1869 about fifty employees. Some were paid £500 to £600 pounds per year and one was paid in excess of £1,000. The latter may have been the artist Thomas Barker. Barker and Sarony were to cooperate later in a rather clever attempt to extract even more money from customers.



In 1870, some weeks before the Prince of Wales came to Scarborough, Sarony advertised, 'A magnificent picture of important dimensions' which Thomas Jones Barker was to paint showing the Prince on the Spa surrounded by his loyal subjects.

The wording of the announcement was so tactful that it is at first reading difficult to derive its meaning, but those to whom it was addressed knew what it meant — that Sarony, for a fee, would take photographs and pass prints to the artist to be incorporated in the painting. The nearer to the Prince the higher the fee!

The painting now hangs in the Town Hall.

Adrian Perry



CIVIC SOCIETY EXECUTIVE AWAY DAY RAISES THE BAR

Over recent months, Pontefract Civic Society has formed an internal Futures Group, which comprises the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, their role being to develop the society's strategic direction.



After the recent AGM, it was clear that an Executive Away Day would achieve clear benefits for the society and the town, and Richard Metcalfe at Rogerthorpe Manor Hotel was keen to support this venture, which took place at the hotel last week.

17 society members drawn from trustees, a few other committee members and brand new people to the civic society went through a challenging series of sessions.



Our day got off to an inspirational start with Anton Maree, the Head of Ackworth School (a new member to the civic society) delivering a rousing keynote speech on leadership & teamwork, where he said *"How does an outsider become an insider? Learn from others, be humble, value other people, be appreciative, laugh & have fun, and don't be afraid to change your mind"*.

A horizon scanning exercise and other models followed, together with a review of potential delivery projects, together with the technology needed to support the running of a good organisation. The society also looked at feedback for what adults and young people wish to see in the town, as well as reviewing the output of a Civic Voice "healthcheck" tool which identified where we need to improve in the future.



After lunch, the second keynote speaker (another new member) Phil Atkinson MD of Pontefract-based global events safety management business, A.C.T. National Ltd. Phil said *"We need to be innovative and invest our energy into developing the society, by finding new members, and new initiatives to ensure the voice of Pontefract is heard. If we don't, the town could quite simply be left behind"*. He went on to ask *"Why shouldn't a successful business be based here? Why shouldn't Pontefract be successful in its own right?"*

Paul Cartwright, civic society Chair said *"The day went really quickly and was an incredible success in moving from explaining some of the Executive's current strategic thinking to what other key members would add, however, we need more people from the community to come and join the society to help deliver new projects in Pontefract"*.

For further information on talks from Pontefract Civic Society, go to the website www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk, or email on info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

Paul Cartwright

Photos courtesy of Ian Hookham

SPEN VALLEY CIVIC SOCIETY'S RESTORATION UNVEILED



Since 10th April 2017 residents can once again enjoy a local landmark in its original glory.



The 80-year-old fingerpost sign was erected in accordance with the Royal Label Factory specifications. An old photo (left) shows it proudly pointing the way for travellers to Leeds, Huddersfield, Halifax, Elland and Brighouse, surrounded by grass and flowerbeds.

Unloved, unnoticed and uncared for, in recent years it lost most of its fingers and became a rusty relic. Spenn Valley Civic Society had restored a "sister" fingerpost in 2003, and last year the Society decided to tackle this one at the junction of Hightown Road and Westgate, Cleckheaton.



Before restoration...

Thanks to a grant from Kirklees Council's "You and Your Community" funding programme, Civic Society volunteers have been able to work hard this winter. New metal letters were made to match the originals, brackets were manufactured using the one remaining original as a "pattern", wooden finger boards were created, and the metal post has been stripped of rust and repainted with numerous coats of paint.

The restored signpost was unveiled on 10th April by Jan Scrine, B.E.M., Treasurer of the Milestone Society. Jan was awarded the British Empire Medal in New Year 2017 to recognise her service to the community. She's a founder member of the Milestone Society, which is a national charity founded in 2001. Its purpose is to raise awareness of quirky old stone and iron milestones, boundary markers and fingerposts, and to encourage their restoration and maintenance.



.....after restoration.

Chair of Spenn Valley Civic Society, Max Rathmell, said "We're delighted Jan Scrine was able to travel all the way from Worcester to unveil the fingerpost sign. It's a piece of Cleckheaton's heritage which deserves a new life, so that local people can appreciate it for many years to come. These fingerpost signs are an 'endangered species' and we're lucky to have more than one in Spenn Valley. The timing of our project means that the restored fingerpost will be 'on show' to the world when Stage Three of the Tour de Yorkshire cycle race passes right by it along Westgate, on Sunday 30th April."



Erica Amende

Photos courtesy of Erica Amende



YHACS FUTURES WORKSHOP FRIDAY, 23RD JUNE, WAKEFIELD

As members will be aware, your YHACS committee has been thinking about the future and the challenges and opportunities it will present for the civic society movement.

I can now give you details of a special workshop we are proposing to run in Wakefield on Friday, 23rd June. Civic societies face two types of existential challenge: keeping going and dealing with the external pressures presented by the change that is happening all around us.

These challenges are, of course, interlinked. How do you recruit members, secure the services of volunteers and raise funds against a backdrop of social and technological change when people are leading busier and busier lifestyles with more demands on their time than ever? How do you make sure that your civic society maintains its relevance and appeal to current and prospective members? How do you find people willing to run your society, willing to take on responsibility for doing the work and willing to assume leadership roles?

.....Are you optimistic about the future for your society or worried about what's on the horizon? Either way, our workshop should offer something to interest you!

Meanwhile, how do you keep abreast of changes in society more generally, be they demographic trends, technological advancements or political uncertainties? Do you see all these challenges as threats or opportunities? Are you optimistic about the future for your society or worried about what's on the horizon?

Either way, our workshop should offer something to interest you! Now, I should stress, that our workshop is not intended to provide you with all the answers! Each society will be faced with its own challenges and will need to respond according to its own resources and within its own context. However, we do hope to be able to provide you with a structured way of thinking about some of these problems that we all face and that you will leave the workshop with some new perspectives to help you decide what to do next.

Perhaps you've already got the future sorted? Maybe you've already worked through what lies ahead and devised your plans accordingly? Well, in that case, why not come along to the workshop and share your ideas with us?

The workshop will be held in the office of Wakefield Civic Society at the Town Hall, Wood Street, Wakefield on Friday, 23rd June. Doors will open at 10.00 am with tea and coffee available and we shall start at 10.30 am (earlier if everyone is ready sooner than that). A buffet lunch will be provided and we aim to finish at around 4 pm. Please note that this is a workshop and will therefore require your active participation! You will be asked to do some thinking and to put forward ideas and responses to questions. There will also be some preworkshop activity sent out in advance to those attending to stimulate your thinking and to help you prepare for the day.

Our Facilitator

I am delighted to tell you that we have secured the services of an experienced external facilitator, Barbara Paterson of Paterson Consultancy, to help



facilitate our workshop and that Barbara has agreed to run this workshop on a *pro bono* basis.

In view of this and the fact that we can make use of the facilities of Wakefield Civic Society, we will be able to offer places free of charge to our members. As their website shows, Paterson Consultancy has a strong track record of working with clients nationally and internationally. Barbara is also a member of Wakefield Civic Society so is already familiar with the sort of work that civic societies do.



Booking Arrangements

Places for the workshop are limited and will be offered on a first-come basis. Should there be sufficient demand, we will consider running further workshops but may have to charge admission for these. If you wish to book a place, please email me (kevintrickett@msn.com) as soon as possible. Please advise me of any special dietary or access needs when you do so. (YHACS committee members do not need to contact me – I already have details of those attending). Please note that there is no car parking at the Town Hall. However, there is pay and display car parking close by and the Town Hall is conveniently situated for people travelling by train.

More details will be sent out to those making a booking.

Kevin Trickett

NEW REGULATIONS PROPOSED FOR CONSERVATION AREAS POST-BREXIT

Civic Societies are being asked to consider the wisdom of recently announced Government proposals that could significantly impact the character of Conservation Areas in the UK.

The new proposals, published in a paper (Gov20170104), were formally announced by Florisa d’Apoyl MP, Junior Minister in the Department of Transport. She said that *“these new regulations will bring some much needed colour to often rather dowdy parts of our towns and villages.”*

The plan will require Local Authorities to change the colour of single- and double-yellow lines which indicate parking-restricted areas. These were designated “yellow” in 1989 to meet EU standards, but from April 2019, when Brexit negotiations are expected to be completed, local Highways Departments will be given discretion to choose **green** or **purple** for single lines and a combination of **orange and blue** for double lines. This will apply only to Conservation Areas. Colour examples are shown (see above right).

.....“bring some much needed colour to rather dowdy parts of our town and village Conservation Areas.”



The changes have been welcomed in principle by Scotland’s Transport MSP, though he added that he would lobby for a tartan alternative for single lines. Public consultations started on 01/04/17 and will run until 31/6/17.

What’s your Society’s view?

Shirley Knotte, Selby CS

YHACS AGM

It was a good turnout for our AGM in Harrogate at the end of January with around 60 people in the audience from over 20 of our member societies. Still room for improvement, of course!

As you may have seen from the minutes, all the existing YHACS committee members were re-elected save for Kevin Grady of Leeds Civic Trust who took the opportunity of his retirement from his position as Director of the Trust to also step down from the YHACS committee. His contribution to both YHACS and Leeds Civic Trust will be missed but perhaps once the novelty of retirement has begun to pall, we may yet see him coming back to us in YHACS?

However, I am delighted to report that Kevin's successor as Director of Leeds Civic Trust, Martin Hamilton has stepped into the breach and has agreed to take up a place on the YHACS committee. This is excellent news for YHACS and I hope you will get the chance to meet Martin at our member events during the coming year. The good news doesn't stop there, though! Phyllis Barnes from Barnsley Civic Trust also agreed to stand for election and, like Martin, was unanimously approved for election to the YHACS committee by members at the AGM. So, welcome, Martin, and welcome, Phyllis. We've already put Phyllis to work, of course, as Phyllis is helping us to plan and organise the Barnsley members' event on 29th April.

One of the highlights of the AGM is the presentation of the YHACS/Peter Spawforth Awards. This time, it was **Leeds Civic Trust** who carried off the trophy and the cash prize of £200 (**top right**) for a project to survey listed buildings in Leeds – this involved over 25 people undertaking over 1,000 surveys!

Second prize (£100) went to **Pontefract Civic Society** (**middle right**) for a £30K project to commission and seek funding for a monument to Magna Carta in the town centre.

The third prize of £50 went to **Doncaster Civic Trust** (**lower right**) for their continuing efforts to run an educational programme to help Doncaster's young people get a better understanding of the value of our district's rich architectural and urban design heritage.

Commendations were also awarded to Halifax, Huddersfield, Scarborough and Wakefield civic societies.

After the presentation of the awards, we moved on to news from our member societies. Erica Amende of Spen Valley Civic Society raised concerns about the closure, demolition and selling off of local civic and educational buildings and asked if other societies were seeing this happening in their areas (a clear 'yes' being the answer). Erica suggested that members might list some of their issues so that a list could be compiled and shared with others. If you can share details of closures in your area and are willing for your email address to be circulated amongst our members so that people can discuss matters of common interest in this regard, please email Erica on erica.amende@talktalk.net. Once the list has been compiled, Erica will provide the list for wider circulation to our member societies.



Photos courtesy of
Kevin Trickett

Kevin Trickett



Reg. Charity No. 1112290

www.yhacs.org.uk

Please send any articles, comments, letters or questions to the editor:

David Moss

The Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies (YHACS) is the distinct voice of the civic society movement in the Yorkshire and Humber region, and our vision is to enhance the quality of life for all citizens in the region by engaging citizens not only in the protection of local heritage but also in the promotion of sustainable economic development and urban renaissance.

Future Events/Dates In 2017/2018

Volume 13, Issue 1

Sat 29th April	YHACS Spring Meeting at the Cooper Gallery, Barnsley
Sat 17th June	Civic Day
Sat 29th July	YHACS Summer Meeting in the Floral Hall, Hornsea
Sat 30th September	YHACS Autumn Meeting in the banqueting suite, Bradford City Hall
Sat 27th January	YHACS AGM at Cedar Court Hotel in Harrogate

NEXT YHACS MEETING

MEMBERS MEETING

AT
COOPER GALLERY
CHURCH STREET
BARNSELY, S70 2AH

GUEST SPEAKERS :
DR JOHN TANNER, BARNSELY COUNCIL'S ARTS & HERITAGE SERVICE
DEBORAH WALL FROM HISTORIC ENGLAND

CONTACT: INFO@YHACS.ORG.UK

Executive Officers, Committee Members and Portfolios

- **Chairman**, Kevin Trickett (*Priorities for Growth*)
- **Vice Chairman**, David Moss (*Newsletter and Communications*)
- **Secretary**, Helen Kidman (*Planning*)
- **Treasurer**, Richard Ward (*Legal/Financial; Towns, Cities & Public Realm*)
- **Exec Committee Member**, Malcolm Sharman (*Heritage & Culture*)
- **Exec Committee Member**, David Winpenny (*Design Quality*)
- **Exec Committee Member**, Tony Leonard
- **Exec Committee Member**, Margaret Hicks-Clarke (*Civic Pride & Engagement*)
- **Exec Committee Member**, Jim Robinson (*Infrastructure*)
- **Exec Committee Member**, Paul Cartwright
- **Exec Committee Member**, Martin Hamilton
- **Exec Committee Member**, Phyllis Barnes
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