



YORKSHIRE & HUMBER
Association of Civic Societies

Member of



SOCIETY INSIGHT

Summer 2017
Volume 13, Issue 2

"FUTURES"

BRING BACK RADICAL JOE AND HARRY W SMITH?

INSIDE PAGES.....

View from the Chair.....3-5

Civic Voice Design Awards.....6-7

Pontefract at the Races.....7

Addingham Membership Issues..8

Civic Day at Skipton.....9

Selby Conservation Areas survey.....9

Empty Buildings in Halifax.....10-11

Dean Clough Mill Award.....12-13

Ilkley Conservation Exhibition.....14

Pontefract & Wakefield Council working together ..15

2017 Stirling Prize shortlist.....16-17

Next YHACS Meeting.....18

Future Events.....18

Could a contributory factor to the Grenfell Tower disaster be the parlous state of local government finances?

The reasons for the terrible fire may be complex and may only be revealed by the Public Inquiry, but if one of the causes was lack of local government capacity then the consequences may be far reaching. Councils today have, on average, less money than they had available in 2010. Most have much less, between 20% and 40% less, and councils are expected to see their government grants go down by at least 15% by 2020 on top of the 37% reduction since 2010.*

We see the consequences of this reduction in funding in lack of resources in planning departments, poorly maintained roads, volunteers helping to run our libraries, problems with funding schools, neglect of council owned property or problems providing social care to the elderly and vulnerable. It is estimated, for example, that the cost of tackling the backlog in road maintenance is now £12 billion.

Have we been here before? In mid-Victorian Birmingham the infrastructure was in a dire state with an 1859 report saying that the poorer districts of the town required not only sewerage but water, proper road surfaces, pavements, open spaces, air, ventilation and less overcrowding. Under the direction of J. Pigott Smith, the Street Commissioner's enterprising surveyor, improvements were gradually made. When the council took over the functions of the Street Commissioners in 1852, Pigott Smith was appointed as Borough Surveyor. However, he quarrelled with the council, which was at that time pursuing a policy of economy, and he was dismissed in 1857. His former assistant was appointed in his place at half the old salary.**

In the mid-1840s the non-conformist preacher George Dawson began to promote a doctrine of 'social responsibility and enlightened municipal improvement'. This philosophy inspired a group of reformers - including Joseph Chamberlain, Jesse

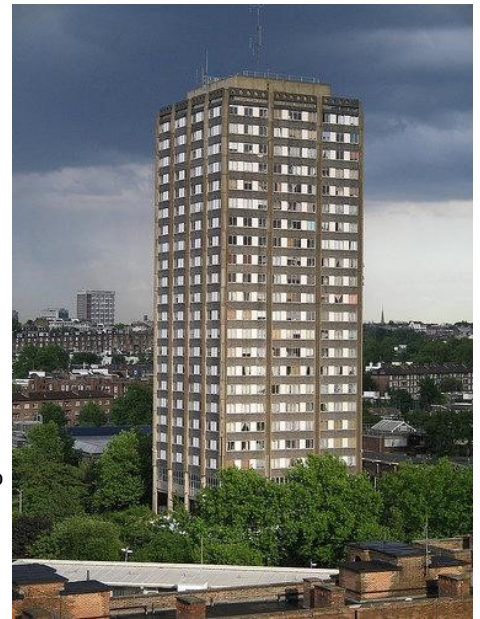


Image from <http://photos.wikimapia.org>



Image from <http://www.cityam.com>



Collings and George Dixon who from 1860 began to be elected to the council. Joseph Chamberlain (*left*) became Mayor in 1873 and, under his leadership, Birmingham was transformed as the council introduced one of the most ambitious improvement schemes outside London. The improvements introduced by Chamberlain and his colleagues were to prove the blueprint for municipal government and by 1890, a visiting American journalist could describe Birmingham as the 'best-governed city in the world'. With such a history, it is perhaps no surprise that Birmingham Civic Society was founded as early as 1918.

In her first major policy speech last year, Theresa May gave Joseph Chamberlain a mention as part of her inspiration. And yet, although a great force for good in Birmingham, his career on the national stage was more controversial. He campaigned for imperial preference for trade in goods and services and split with the Liberal party over Ireland. So perhaps having Joseph Chamberlain back might be tricky. Personally, I would like to see the return of Harry W Smith (*right*), Scarborough's renowned Borough Engineer from 1896 until 1933. Much of the best of modern municipal Scarborough was created under his watch, and he was born in Birmingham!



So, we may be seeing the start of a debate on how we value the contribution to our quality of life made by local government. We cannot expect a return of local vision being implemented solely by the public sector – partnership working and voluntary action can only strengthen our civil society. A good example of this is Wakefield's Hepworth Gallery winning the 2017 Arts Fund Museum of the Year award, '*backed by a progressive council that recognised the benefits of investing in the arts*'.

So, we may be seeing the start of a debate on how we value the contribution to our quality of life made by local government....

Could our elected councils take a lead in developing the vision for our areas, just as Joseph Chamberlain and others did over a hundred years ago?

What can civic societies contribute to this all this?

We know that many societies are already seizing the opportunity to assist their local councils in practical ways with assistance given to Conservation Officers and Heritage Champions (if you are lucky enough to have one) and collaborative working. If you are very determined you may consider taking on a neglected building via Community Asset Transfer. As an absolute minimum I think all societies should be members of Civic Voice, our best way of promoting our agenda with government.

Peter Cooper with thanks to Karen McCabe

References

* **Source:** Citizen's Assembly, citizensassembly.co.uk

****British History Online, A History of the County of Warwick, Volume 7. The City of Birmingham.**

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Thinking about the 'future'

I don't have a crystal ball, sadly, so I cannot predict with accuracy what is going to happen tomorrow, let alone next week or next year. There are some things in my diary, of course, that I expect to happen (holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, civic society meetings, etc.) and I can plan things around these. But I'm thinking here about the 'bigger picture' stuff that affects us all and could have profound effects on the way we live our lives. How ready is your society to tackle the challenges ahead? The media regularly feature stories about demographic trends, climate change, innovations in technology, concerns about pollution, political, legal and societal changes, and so on. How responsive is your society to getting the best advantage from opportunities when they occur and to minimising the impact of any threats that might be heading your way?

These were just some of the questions that the fifteen people attending the first YHACS Futures Workshop were asked to think about when they assembled at Wakefield Town Hall back in June. Using standard analytical methodologies and 'appreciative enquiry' techniques, members were asked to reflect on what sort of problems the civic movement was facing while also imagining a future where the problems had been solved and the civic movement was going from strength to strength. The catch then, of course, was to identify how societies can move from their current reality to the sunny uplands.

Delegates were asked to write personal action plans based on steps they could take as individuals

How responsive is your society to getting the best advantage from opportunities when they occur and to minimising the impact of any threats.....?

to help improve the fortunes of their own civic society and, in so doing, the future sustainability of YHACS and, indeed, Civic Voice (and it was good to see Ian Harvey, executive director of Civic Voice, attending the workshop as one of the delegates).

The workshop, facilitated by Barbara Paterson of [Paterson Consultancy](#) on a pro bono basis, with support and input from me, was never going to be about providing answers but it did get people thinking about practical steps they could take – and Barbara and I will be following up with those present in the autumn to see how people got on implementing their plans. What was clear from the feedback on the day was how much people had enjoyed taking time out to reflect on the issues faced by civic societies and sharing their ideas, passion and enthusiasm with like-minded individuals from other societies.

I'll be saying more about the importance of developing future strategies at our members' meeting in Hornsea at the end of July. Meanwhile, YHACS is now looking to organise a second Futures Workshop in the autumn – watch out for further details in due course.

New Charity Governance Code – what are the implications for civic societies?

Last year, the Charity Commission consulted on a proposed code of governance. This has now been published and is available on-line at <https://www.charitygovernancecode.org/en>.

Charity Governance Code

While the new Code is at the moment just guidance, it is based on current legal requirements and recommended practice. It is set out under 7 principles and introduces the notion of 'apply or explain' – in other words, charities should apply the code's principles wherever they can and explain those instances where, for whatever reason, a charity cannot apply the recommendations of the Code.

Much that is in the Code will be familiar already, this is evolution not revolution, but there are some interesting new recommendations about recruitment and retention of trustees – i.e., your committee members – which will have far-reaching implications for many societies. Not least of these is the recommendation that trustees serve for a maximum of 9 years.

Now, I'm writing this as someone who has served as a trustee on the committee of Wakefield Civic Society for nearly 28 years and who has been president/ chair of the Society for nearly 16 years. On top of that, I have been a trustee of YHACS for coming up for 16 years and chair for nearly 7 years. The Wakefield Civic Society committee has 5 members who have been in office for over 9 years and the YHACS committee 3. I suspect that many civic societies (and other community groups for that matter) will be in the similar position of having long-serving committee trustees. I wonder what would happen if the 9-year rule was to be made mandatory?

I'm fairly sure that the Charity Commission is not intending that there should be

There's another problem of allowing someone to serve more or less indefinitely and that is complacency.

a mass clear-out of charity stalwarts whose tireless energies and enthusiasm keeps so many

small charities running. To mandate that would cause huge problems and possibly lead to the closure of some charities unable to find willing volunteers to take on the vacated roles.

However, I can understand the thinking about the new recommendation; indeed, when I advocated changing the YHACS constitution recently to set a six-year time limit on the role of YHACS chair, I had seen the writing on the wall, or at least on various internet pages in which the thinking on charity governance had been widely discussed.

There are benefits and problems associated with having long-serving trustees. Benefits include building experience, local knowledge and contacts – all very useful facets of being an effective trustee. Problems, on the other hand, are trustees being so-closely identified with the charity and their roles that others perceive trustee selection, particularly for key officer posts, as something of a closed-shop, or done deal. This can be an effective barrier to the recruitment of new trustees – people don't want to challenge a long-standing post holder for fear of causing upset or embarrassment or because they don't think the charity would back a newcomer against an existing and no doubt respected candidate.

There's another problem of allowing someone to serve more or less indefinitely and that is complacency. We're all so relieved that someone has agreed to serve that we can breathe easy, thankful that the post is filled. While ever there is someone willing to have a go, let them get on with it, don't rock the boat, etc., etc. The trouble then is that when these long-serving committee

members do want to step down, there are no processes in place, or no candidates in waiting, to allow for a transition and the result can be fatal to the survival of the charity. A number of civic societies in our own region have folded in recent years because they cannot find people willing to serve on their committee. Another problem, of course, is that if your committee is predominantly 'white, middle class and retired', there's a good chance your membership will come from this social group as well. Your committee will mirror your membership and vice versa.

The new Charity Code of Governance points us in the direction we need to be thinking about (at section 5.7 on Board [for which read Committee] Effectiveness:

Overseeing appointments

There is a formal, rigorous and transparent procedure to appoint new trustees to the board, which includes advertising vacancies widely.

The search for new trustees is carried out, and appointments or nominations for election are made, on merit, against objective criteria and considering the benefits of diversity. The board regularly looks at what skills it has and needs, and this affects how new trustees are found.

Trustees are appointed for an agreed length of time, subject to any applicable constitutional or statutory provisions relating to election and re-election. If a trustee has served for more than nine years, their reappointment is subject to a particularly rigorous review and takes into account the need for progressive refreshing of the board explained in the trustees' annual report.

You can see from this that applying the rule of 'Buggin's turn' won't wash in future, nor will allowing someone to run and run be acceptable either – there will only be some many occasions that you can explain away why your society failed to find a new chair or trustee and so allowed someone to continue to clock up the mileage. As I said above, this is not yet mandatory, but I do think we all need to start thinking about the implications of the new code and its recommendations. Even if the 9-year rule isn't yet a requirement, it is probably in the best interests of your charity to act as if the recommendation is likely to become mandatory at some point and to start thinking now about how you can improve the processes for recruitment of trustees.

Are you ready for GDPR? (That's the new General Data Protection Regulation)

There are some new requirements being introduced next year (effective from 25th May 2018) which will affect the way in which charities use personal information held about their members. The GDPR is targeted at all organisations that collect personal data but has some specific implications for charities and membership-based organisations. Guidance on the new rules is starting to emerge on-line but I've asked our legal portfolio holder, Richard Ward, to draft an article for the next edition of *Society Insight* on the provisions of the GDPR and how they will affect civic societies.



Until then, it might help to start thinking now about how your society prepares for the changes that are coming and I urge all our member societies to start looking on-line for more information.

I'll be saying a bit more about this and the Charity Governance Code at Hornsea. The future has never looked so ~~challenging~~ interesting.

Kevin Trickett



CIVIC VOICE'S THIRD ANNUAL DESIGN AWARDS

Joan Humble, the Chair of Civic Voice, announced the Design Award shortlist for 2017 whilst visiting Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool (Civic Voice Design Award overall winner 2016).

18 schemes from across England were shortlisted by the expert judging panel for their high quality design and positive impact on the local community. The awards are sponsored by British Land and Farrells.

Unique in England, the Civic Voice Design Awards give communities the opportunity to nominate and celebrate well-designed new build, housing, heritage and public realm projects that they are locally proud of.

Shortlisted schemes from Yorkshire and the Humber region were:-



Public Realm Category

Barton Beck restoration, Barton-upon-Humber (left)

A locally driven project to restore a badly neglected and overgrown historic spring fed pond, the Barton Beck, back to life in the heart of the town.

Grey to Green (Phase 1), Sheffield (right)

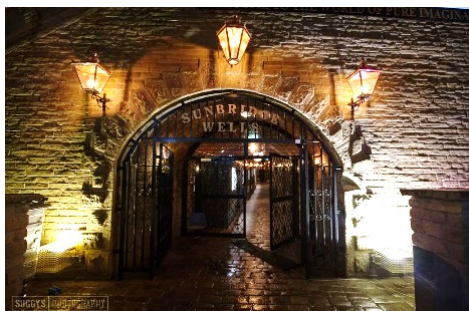
A new approach to transforming redundant road space in the city centre into a network of green and public spaces, including meadows and rain gardens, providing sustainable drainage.



Historic Buildings Category

Sunbridge Wells, Bradford (left)

A unique project which has brought a long-forgotten network of historic tunnels underneath Bradford city centre back to life, into a subterranean leisure complex of independent boutique shops, café bars and craft market stalls.



Sunny Bank Mills, Farsley, West Yorkshire (right)

Sympathetic restoration of a series of historic mill buildings into a mixed-use employment hub and creative quarter, which draws upon the creative ethos of the mill when it was in use, providing flexible office space for small businesses, cafes, restaurants and an art gallery.



The results, announced on 14th July at an event in the Leadenhall Building, London, led to some notable successes for our region’s nominated projects.

Sheffield’s “Grey to Green” was winner in the Public Realm category, and Bradford’s Sunbridge Wells project was “Highly Commended” in the “Historic Buildings” category, and was also a winner in the “Special Conservation Areas” category.



Full details of all the award winners can be seen at: <http://bit.ly/2tUheF2>

David Moss

Abstracted from Civic Voice website

PONTEFRAC CIVIC SOCIETY’S DAY AT THE RACES



Pontefract Civic Society has maximised its links to heritage in the widest possible way for years, and that tradition continued on a rainy Tuesday 11 July at Pontefract Racecourse for the 3:40 pm; 6 furlong race with a prize of £9,057.

Alan Zheng, owner of winning horse 'Robero' - Jockey: Silvestre De Sousa - is shown here (right) with Dr Colin White representing the civic society for the presentation of the King Richard III Handicap Stakes trophy donated by the civic society.



Paul Cartwright

Photos courtesy of Paul Cartwright



SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP - THREATS & OPPORTUNITIES

At its peak in the late 1980's Addingham Civic Society had just under 500 members.

Around that time discussions were underway regarding the proposed route for the Village by-pass. The Society along with many other Village Groups made its voice heard. The by-pass finally opened in 1991 and since then the total membership has fallen gradually year on year!

We are just going through this year's renewal process and we have increased our fees (from £8 to £9 for a single membership and from £15 to £17 for a double membership) and it's looking like we will be around the 390 mark once this exercise is complete. This is still excellent as the total population of the Village is circa 3800..... So, financially we are very sound. Our challenge at the moment is to replace our members who are 'passing away'/moving home or just not renewing, with new ones. At the moment we are just about 'holding our own'.

We try very hard to provide a varied Social Programme as we feel this is important: 11 Speaker/Musical evenings, 2 Village Fayres, an annual 'away day' (on the 7th of July 45 of us went on a canal boat trip!) and a Xmas Party. We issue a 2/3-page members monthly Newsletter. We do of course have an active Planning/Housing Group, a Blue Plaque scheme, a Village Pride award, an Environmental Group, etc. We are just about to launch a 3-year Grant/Bursary project for 'worthy/good' causes in the Community, which is exciting. We work really hard with the many other Village Groups/Organisations (there are over 30 in the Village.....Yes, it is hard to believe!), the local businesses, the School and our Parish Council. This 'networking' is very



..Our challenge at the moment is to replace our members who are 'passing away', moving home or just not renewing, with new ones.

important, no, it's vital!! We have an excellent relationship with the local Ilkley Gazette which comes out weekly and this

is very useful. We are a voice in the Village, that's for sure.

We are doing ok members wise, but we can't rest on our laurels and have decided to embark on a recruitment drive with the hope of attracting more proactive members. Our members are great, we love them, they support us at events (we average around 70 at our Monthly Meetings), they renew when asked (in the main!), support us when called upon to do so, etc. But like all other Societies we struggle to get 'doers'! There is plenty for members to get involved in, without having to sign up to be a Trustee, which of course sounds scary!! We have a number of subgroups: Finance, Environment, Planning, Social and Blue Plaques, so plenty for people to get involved in.

With all this in mind we have produced a colour brochure/leaflet to tell prospective members, who we are and what we do. It only costs around 40p per copy to produce (with an order of 50), so we felt it was worthwhile to undertake. It was very useful to have this on our stand at the Village Gala at the beginning of July and we'll use at other events. Hopefully it will attract some new members and active one's at that.....you can only try!

Jim Robinson.

SKIPTON CIVIC SOCIETY'S CIVIC DAY EVENTS

To celebrate this year's Civic Day with its theme of Conservation Areas, Skipton Civic Society mounted a display about the Skipton Conservation Area in Skipton Library for two weeks.



The exhibition promoted the Society's three leaflets on buildings in the Conservation Area which are sold at the Library and the Tourist Information Centre.

On Civic Day the Society launched its revised and reprinted version of the leaflet on Middle Row. This is a short and ancient row of buildings built in the centre of the High Street and the launch included a guided walk around the Row by Sue Wrathmell, co-chair of the Society

Clair Nash

SELBY CIVIC SOCIETY'S 2017 CONSERVATION AREA PROJECT

2017 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Civic Amenities Act 1967 which led to the inception of Conservation Areas in 1967.

So a project based around Selby's Conservation Areas fits with Civic Voice's "Big Conservation Conversation" campaign announced for 2017 - see <http://bit.ly/2te4f2y>

What's proposed?

Society members will be making a digital photographic record of all the streets and buildings in the town's four Conservation Areas to provide a "snapshot" of what the Conservation Area's buildings are like in 2017 - warts and all!

We plan to collate the images and document them as an archive of photographs that we hope will be of interest to present and future residents of the town. We'll create a digital archive of these photographs and a public display of these will be organised when the project is completed.



Photo courtesy of David Moss

David Moss





EMPTY BUILDINGS PUT OUR HERITAGE IN DANGER



For some time Halifax Civic Trust has been concerned about the number of historically or architecturally important buildings lying empty and unused in the Halifax town centre conservation area.

On June 17, Civic Day, in line with Civic Voice's theme for the year, the Conservation Conversation, the trust organised a walk for members of the public to draw attention to this growing problem in the town.

Halifax is exceptional in the range and quality of its buildings; certainly it ranks among the best in the country for town of its size. In 1979 Sir John Betjeman, Poet Laureate and lover of fine architecture, wrote: *"Halifax is full of character and hidden beauty. The Piece Hall is symbolic of its hidden and great worth. The skyline of Halifax, its churches, chapels, mills and warehouses, is something never to be forgotten and gives Halifax its identity."*

Nearly 40 years on what Betjeman wrote remains true as the town centre largely escaped the destruction of many towns and cities in the 1960s and '70s. The jewels include Sir Charles Barry's Italianate town hall, opened in 1863 by the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, and the Borough Market, opened by the Duke and Duchess of York, later King George V, in 1896, along with a spectacular townscape of high Victorian streets such as Crossley Street, Princess Street, Crown Street, Commercial Street and Southgate. And there is, too, the diamond in the crown from an earlier age, the unique Piece Hall - a market for the sale of "pieces" of cloth - built in 1779 and currently undergoing a £19 million makeover.

But for all the fine buildings that the 1960s and '70s forgot to demolish, there is an alarming number of fine historically and architecturally important buildings that today lie empty and unused and have been so, in some cases, for years. Some of them are at the very core of the town centre – buildings such as the former Theatre Royal (left) and the former crown post Office (above).



Deal Street Warehouses



Theatre Royal

Two events in 2016 drew attention to the increasing number of these empty buildings. They were the closure of both of Halifax's surviving court buildings, the Calderdale Magistrates' Court of 1889 (*right*), and the County Court, a distinguished palazzo of 1870 (*left*), axed by the Courts and Tribunals Service as a cost-saving measure along with more than 80 other courts throughout the country. Then came the closure of the post office after 129 years, replaced by new facilities within the town's W H Smith store.



County Court



Magistrates Court

The catalogue of unused historic buildings, almost all of them listed, is a long one. It also includes the Georgian former Holy Trinity Church (*right*), opened in 1798 but made redundant in 1980 and converted to offices; and Harrison House (*below, right*), former HQ of Halifax Literary and Philosophical Society, built in 1834 with extensions in the 1860s and incorporating a lecture theatre with

noted acoustics. Also, the Theatre Royal (*page 10*), built in 1905 to replace an earlier theatre of 1790 which was destroyed by a fire in 1904, and later converted into a cinema, then a bingo hall and unsuccessfully as a night club, now empty for many years.

Then there is the once well-known former Simpsons store, a large, ornate 1886s structure, empty for several for several years and said to be in poor condition internally and two shops in Northgate, knocked into one and restored but empty for at least eight years. Also, some Victorian wool warehouses at the edge of the conservation areas, built between 1845 and



Great Northern Shed

1875 and generally in poor condition; and the Great Northern Shed (*left*), a fine railway warehouse, built in 1885, but empty for decades. Finally there is the Georgian Somerset House (*right*), a

genuine stately home, listed grade 2*, built in 1766, probably by John Carr, of York in the very heart of the town. In the 19th century this 17-bay house with warehouses was swallowed up by the expanding town and used as a bank and post office, among other things. Although recently restored, parts of the building, including the sumptuously stuccoed first-floor salon, are currently unoccupied.



Somerset House

Halifax Civic Trust fears that if these historic buildings are left empty for too long their condition will deteriorate, putting their future at risk.

The trust's vice-chairman, David Glover, who organised the Civic Day walk, said: "We are concerned about the future of these buildings. We wish to conserve them and find new uses, with sympathetic conversion where possible."

David Hanson

Photos courtesy of David Hanson



Holy Trinity Church



Harrison House



DEAN CLOUGH MILL WINS HALIFAX CIVIC TRUST AWARD

The landmark restoration of two semi-derelict former carpet mills has scooped this year's Halifax Civic Trust Award.

A Mill and B Mill at Dean Clough, Halifax, once part of the carpet-making empire of John Crossley and Sons, have been turned into offices for insurance firm Covea in a £14 million scheme. The two adjoining buildings were the first of the giant Crossley mills, built in 1841 and 1844, and the last to be restored in a huge renovation project that has so far taken 34 years.

Dean Clough was once the largest integrated carpet manufacturing complex in the world, employing 5,000 people in well over a dozen mills and weaving sheds. But Crossley's could not escape the decline in the textile industry from the 1960s and the last of the Dean Clough mills closed in 1982. A year later businessman and pianist Ernest Hall, later Sir Ernest, and partners bought the half-mile-long Dean Clough estate, with its 1.25 million square feet of floorspace, and set about creating a "practical utopia" of business living side by side with the arts.

Dean Clough was once the largest integrated carpet manufacturing complex in the world, employing 5,000 people in well over a dozen mills and weaving sheds.

Today the complex employs around 4,000 people in about 140 businesses and other organisations. They range from from the

NHS and Lloyds Banking Group to a huge range of smaller businesses, including restaurants, bars and a post office as well as arts organisations such as the Northern Broadsides and IOU theatre companies and Dean Clough's own six art galleries. Dean Clough is today recognised as a model for successful commercial and urban regeneration.

After lying unused for decades, the restoration of the listed six-storey A and B



A Mill, right, and B Mill, showing the new, glazed lift and stair tower alongside the redundant stair and loading tower, now turned into meeting rooms.



Top-floor, open-plan office space, showing the cleaned and exposed roof trusses.

mills was a major task. To begin with the place was infested with pigeons and one of the first tasks was to dig out an estimated eight tons of droppings! But much more serious work was needed. The structure did not meet 21st-century standards and the long list of works included strengthening all the floors by adding new steel columns to the existing Victorian cast-iron pillars and laying

new floors on top of the old. Part of B Mill had shifted over time and more steelwork was used to prevent further movement.

Two giant glazed lift and stair towers were built to replace inadequate staircases and the redundant projecting stair and loading towers were turned into meeting rooms.



Malcolm Nutton (centre), senior facilities manager with Covea, Dean Clough, Halifax, receives the 2017 Halifax Civic Trust Award from the Mayor of Calderdale, Coun Howard Blagbrough. With them are the chairman of Halifax Civic Trust, Dr John Hargreaves, Susan Hargreaves (left) and Catherine Kirk, Mayoress of Calderdale.

Architectural features such as the old columns, timber floors and magnificent roof trusses were preserved in the refit. Outside a dreary area of car parking was transformed into a terrace with new steps, paving and stainless-steel seating and handrails.

Paris-based Covea, whose British arm incorporates former Halifax motor insurer Provident Insurance, moved in last year with an official opening by president Thierry Derez. The firm is now the biggest employer at Dean Clough, its new offices

housing 720 employees, with room for another 60.

Halifax Civic Trust Awards co-ordinator David Hanson said the restoration of the last of the big mills was a landmark development. "Dean Clough Ltd, Covea and their many partners, in this thorough, honest and thoughtful revitalisation of A Mill and B Mill, have done Halifax proud," he said. Now only one smaller building, Marshall's Mill, still awaits a facelift. The resurrection of Dean Clough is almost complete.

Architects: Enjoy Design, of Leeds; structural engineers, Thomasons, of Leeds; main contractor, Finnegan, Sheffield.

The Halifax Civic Trust Awards were instituted in 1992 to commend high-quality work in new building, the restoration and reuse of redundant buildings and other environmental improvements in the town and countryside of the former Halifax County Borough. Since then more than 70 awards and commendations have been made.

The Dean Clough award was presented by the then Mayor of Calderdale, Coun Howard Blagbrough, at Halifax Civic Trust's annual general meeting in May 2017. Officers re-elected were: chairman, Dr John Hargreaves; vice-chairman, David Glover; secretary, June Paxton-White; and treasurer, Gill Hurl. Paul Bedwell, a trustee on the Civic Voice board, gave an illustrated talk on the role and future of the civic movement.



David Hanson

Photos courtesy of David Hanson



BIG CONSERVATION CONVERSATION EXHIBITION IN ILKLEY



As part of the Big Conservation Conversation, marking the 50th Anniversary of the Civic Amenities Act 1967, Ilkley Civic Society held an exhibition on June 16 and 17th.

The theme of the exhibition was conservation work and conservation areas and was an opportunity to talk to residents and visitors about what is going on in the town as well as things like listed buildings and buildings at risk, design and changes to properties and businesses in the Conservation Areas and the role of planning and enforcement.

Ilkley Civic Society has used the 50th anniversary to highlight the benefits of Conservation Area. It is currently highlighting the subject of traditional buildings and their repair and maintenance. The Society can help owners of buildings constructed before 1919, which are of traditional construction, by recommending points to consider before carrying out work.

Helen Kidman, chair of Ilkley Civic Society said: *"The exhibition is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Civic Amenities Act 1967 which introduced conservation areas to the planning arena. Civic Societies across the country, led by Civic Voice, are carrying out a whole range of celebratory activities on Civic Day on June 17, 2017. The theme of the exhibition is conservation work and conservation areas and is an opportunity to tell residents and visitors what is going on in the town and the surrounding area. The event may be used for recruiting more members and volunteers to the organisations. The primary purpose of the exhibition is information and communication rather than fund raising. We plan this event to be informal and appealing to all ages."*



Photos courtesy of Barry Wilkinson

WAKEFIELD COUNCIL AND PONTEFRACT CIVIC SOCIETY PLEDGE TO PROMOTE PONTEFRACT



Wakefield Council and Pontefract Civic Society have signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' which sets out how they will work together to promote the historic town.

The document is a formal pledge to work collaboratively and with key partners to raise the profile of the town locally, regionally and nationally. Both organisations will be encouraging tourists to visit Pontefract and see its attractions, including Pontefract Castle which is benefiting from the £3.5 million "Key to the North" project to conserve the building and which has recently seen the opening of a new Visitor Centre and café.

Cllr Denise Jeffery, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Regeneration at Wakefield Council, signed the Memorandum with Paul Cartwright, Chairman of Pontefract Civic Society. The formal signing of the document took place at Pontefract Castle.

"I see our role in working with the Council and other stakeholders as a benefit to the town as a whole....."

Cllr Peter Box CBE, Leader of Wakefield

Council, said: "The Council has been working with the Civic Society for many years. It has been instrumental in helping us to deliver many positive changes. Having the Memorandum of Understanding in place strengthens a crucial link between the Council, the Civic Society, residents, businesses and community groups that are based in our great town." Cllr Denise Jeffery added: "Pontefract Castle is just one example of how the Council has joined forces with partner organisations to strengthen our offer and this is an approach that we know works for the W good of everyone."

Paul Cartwright, Civic Society Chair added, "Signing the MOU supports the repositioning of the society to be the voice for Pontefract, after a number of years of working in this direction. I see our role in working with the Council and other stakeholders as a benefit to the town as a whole, creating solutions which we can all be proud of."

Paul Cartwright

Abstracted from "Pontefract Voice"

2017 RIBA STIRLING PRIZE SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

The shortlist for the prestigious 2017 RIBA Stirling Prize for the UK's best new building has been announced. The six shortlisted buildings will now go head-to-head for architecture's highest accolade. Now in its 22nd year, the 2017 RIBA Stirling Prize is sponsored by Almacantar.

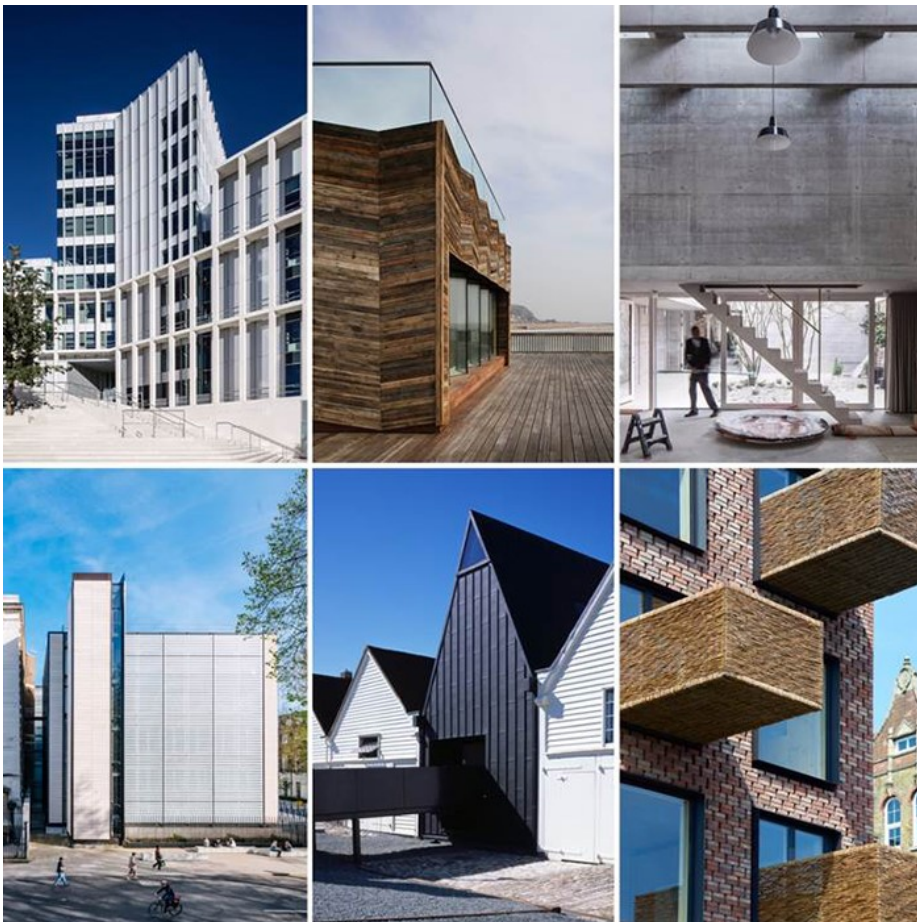
The 2017 RIBA Stirling Prize shortlist comprises a slender brick-clad and wicker-balconied development of six apartments in east London (**Barrett's Grove**); the skilful subterranean extension of a much-loved British institution (**British Museum World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre**); the striking redevelopment of Chatham Historic Dockyard (**Command of the Oceans**); an immense new college campus in the heart of Glasgow (**City of Glasgow College – City Campus**); a vibrant community-led restored pier on the south coast (**Hastings Pier**); and an exquisite new photography studio in west London (**Photography Studio for Juergen Teller**).

Architects

- Barrett's Grove, Stoke Newington, east London by Groupwork + Amin Taha
- British Museum World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre, Bloomsbury, London by Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners

- Command of the Oceans by Baynes and Mitchell Architects for Chatham Historic Dockyard in Kent.
- City of Glasgow College - City Campus, Scotland by Reiach & Hall Architects and Michael Laird Architects.
- Hastings Pier, East Sussex by dRMM Architects.
- Photography Studio for Juergen Teller, West London by 6a architects.

The shortlist features projects by previous RIBA Stirling Prize winners Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners (for Maggie's Centre London in 2009 and Barajas Airport in 2006). Reiach & Hall Architects and Michael Laird Architects were shortlisted last year for City of Glasgow College's Riverside Campus. Reiach & Hall Architects were shortlisted for Maggie's Centre Lanarkshire in 2015 and dRMM have been shortlisted twice before (Clapham Manor School in 2010 and Trafalgar Place in 2016). Groupwork + Amin Taha, 6a architects and Baynes and Mitchell Architects are shortlisted for the first time.



Images; top left: City of Glasgow College - City Campus (credit: Keith Hunter) top centre: Hastings Pier (credit: Alex de Rijke) top right: Photography Studio for Juergen Teller (credit: Johan Dehlin) bottom left: The British Museum World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre (credit: Joas Souza) bottom centre: Command of the Oceans (credit: Hélène Binet) bottom right: Barrett's Grove (credit: Timothy Soar).

Speaking about the shortlist **RIBA President Jane Duncan** said:

“The RIBA Stirling Prize is awarded to the building that has made the biggest contribution to the evolution of architecture in a given year.

“This year’s shortlisted schemes show exceptionally creative, beautifully considered and carefully detailed buildings that have made every single penny count. Commissioned at the end of the recession, they are an accolade to a creative profession at the top of its game. Each of these outstanding projects has transformed their local area and delights those who are lucky enough to visit, live, study or work in them.

“Half of the shortlisted buildings are visitor destinations. The World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre is an extremely skilful partially-underground extension for the display, conservation and storage of the British Museum’s incredible collections. Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners have overcome incredibly complex planning constraints to create a building that enhances the area and this much-loved institution. Command of the Oceans brings a bold and accessible new visitor experience to Chatham Historic Dockyard. A striking, black visitor entrance, exciting approach to conservation, and inventive raised route around the complex have given the dockyard a dramatic new lease of life. Hastings Pier has been driven by the passionate local community in response to the fire that destroyed their Victorian pier in 2010. This versatile and beautiful contemporary pier and visitors centre sits upon the repaired Victorian iron work of the original pier, and is kick-starting the town’s renaissance.

“.....this is not just a collection of exceptionally well designed buildings but spaces and places of pure beauty, surprise and delight.”

“The other half of the shortlist share a common quality: intelligent responses to challenging urban sites. Through careful use of a tactile palette of materials including brick, timber and wicker, Barrett’s Grove has injected an extraordinary small development of delightful, warm homes into an otherwise ordinary street in north London. The City of Glasgow College’s new City Campus is an immensely confident contribution to the architecture of the city, and is testament to Scotland’s commitment to invest in high-quality further education. Unique elements like street-front ‘shops’ for the college’s trainee hairdressers and chefs to earn and learn add to the comprehensive facilities that raise the bar for higher education buildings. Despite its constrained and semi-industrial plot in west London, the Photography Studio for Juergen Teller is an oasis in which the architects and landscape designer Dan Pearson have created a seemingly modest yet sublime light-filled studio and garden. Every single detail created by this exceptionally talented architect is precise and highly considered.

“This year’s shortlist typifies everything that is special about UK architecture: this is not just a collection of exceptionally well designed buildings but spaces and places of pure beauty, surprise and delight.”

The winner of the RIBA Stirling Prize will be announced on Tuesday 31 October 2017 at the Roundhouse in Camden, North London.

David Moss





Reg. Charity No. 1112290

www.yhacs.org.uk

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

David Moss

- 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
HORNSEA FLORAL HALL
7, ESPLANADE,
HORNSEA, HU18 1NQ**



**GUEST SPEAKERS
CLLR ANNE PAGET, MAYOR OF HORNSEA; JOHN MILLER, HORNSEA CS;
KEVIN TRICKETT, YHACS & PAUL BEDWELL, CIVIC VOICE**

Executive Officers, Committee Members and Portfolios

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.

- **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
- **President**, Peter Cooper (*Website; Towns, Cities & Public Realm*)