

A TALE OF THREE HOUSING SCHEMES: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE?

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Would you like to buy a house?

It is advertised on Rightmove - a three-bed new build in Morley with an asking price of £194,500. All mod cons, garden and room for parking. Not for you? How about a house in Kippax? Also a three-bed new build, slightly more expensive but curiously has the exactly the same layout, the same options for fixtures and fittings, uses the same materials, has exactly the same design and most curious of all, appears to have used the same picture to illustrate it! Yes, this is a "house type" offered by one of our volume housebuilders. The same house design regardless of location. Do we really want more and more of these identikit houses, built on the nearest greenfield site, without any regard for their location?

It would be naïve to suggest that the volume housebuilder has no part to play in solving the nation's housing crisis, but are there alternative approaches – part of an overall jigsaw perhaps – that might be part of the solution? In this article, I want to talk about three recently approved housing schemes that do not conform to the volume housebuilding norm but are all, in their own way, highly sustainable responses to housing shortages.

Kirkstall Forge: Architect-led development

Kirkstall Forge can trace its history back to the 12th century, when a mill race powered a corn mill for the Cistercian Monks who lived at nearby Kirkstall Abbey. Significant iron production started 500 years ago, and by the 19th Century the site was a fully-fledged ironworks, producing axles for horse-drawn carriages, a business that developed to support the motor vehicle industry in the



High quality housing proposed for the Kirkstall Forge scheme

20th Century before closing around 15 years ago. Commercial Estates Group (CEG) bought the 57-acre site, and after sitting tight through the recession, has started to build. Their scheme will eventually include more than 1000 houses, 300,000 sq ft of office accommodation and 100,000 sq ft of leisure and retail. The site is particularly sustainable – it is a few minutes' walk from the A65 (which has regular buses into the centre of Leeds), is located near the Leeds and Liverpool Canal (a 20-minute cycle into Leeds), and most significantly, is the location of a new railway station (Kirkstall Forge) which, unusually, was put in place in advance of the development. The first office block has now been built,

20th Century before closing around 15 years ago.

Commercial Estates Group (CEG) bought the 57-acre site, and after sitting tight through the recession, has started to build. Their scheme will eventually include more than 1000 houses,

and approval has been granted for the first batch of 112 houses.

As you can see from the image on page 1, this is not the usual fare provided by the volume housebuilders. They are designed by Fielden Clegg Bradley Studios, and bear some similarities to their “Accordia” scheme in Cambridge, that won them the Stirling Prize in 2008. They boast high ceilings, open staircases, rooflights, terraces and balconies, the houses are built using eco-friendly “Passivhaus” principles. Too often, large scale commercial developments such as these can seem soulless – a place to sleep before jumping in your car to go to work. CEG hope to create a real community.

.....this is not the usual fare provided by the volume housebuilders.

There will be a community hub, cafes and retail. Cycling and

running clubs and potentially allotments - residents will ultimately decide what facilities they would like. Leeds Civic Trust, in its comments on the planning application, said “it is a refreshing change to see a development, which has been well designed in a non-traditional and innovative manner.” The houses will be completed in the next year or so – we will find out if our enthusiasm for the designs - and the concept - is shared by the house-buying public!

Low Fold, Hunslet: Eco-friendly housing

CITU, the company behind a scheme known as the “Climate Innovation District” on the banks of the Aire, just west of the Royal Armouries in Hunslet describes the scheme as the largest sustainable development in the UK, and claims to be an antidote to

volume city centre apartment developments. The scheme (which is now on site) will provide just over 300 homes. Included in the overall development is a footbridge over the river, a primary school and around one square



A view from the River Aire of the pre-fabricated, timber –framed houses being developed by CITU in Hunslet

kilometre of open space. What makes this scheme different,

is that all the properties, which are designed by Swedish Architects “White Arkitekter”, are timber framed and are prefabricated at a factory near the site, before being moved into place. This method is significantly less carbon intensive than more traditional approaches. The buildings will include rainwater collection and reuse, mechanical ventilation and recovery, digital technology to control energy consumption via a device, solar panels connected to a development-wide smart grid, green roofs. These and other measures combined, create homes which are said to be ten times more airtight than those required by UK building regulations, and a heating requirement that is ten times lower than a standard UK house.

Leeds Civic Trust (at the time the application was approved in 2015) supported the scheme which would produce “high quality family housing” and commended the developer on a “brave proposal” on a difficult site.” In

Leeds, the Civic Trust sees many proposals for city centre development which comprises one and two-bedroom apartments, but rarely three-bedroom apartments and hardly ever houses, since we are told that there is no demand for family homes located in the city centre. CITU think differently. Time will tell if their vision is vindicated, but we certainly commend their leap of faith.

Housing Co-operatives: ChaCo Chapeltown Co-housing

Schemes such as the ChaCo Chapeltown Co-housing aims to fill a yawning gap by providing housing that is genuinely affordable. Planning approval has been granted for 63 units (including houses, apartments for over 55s and a plot of land for four self-build properties) and a central “common house” with facilities such as communal laundry, waste and recycling facilities. The scheme also includes a combination of private and shared spaces (allotments and shared gardens). Taken together, these features aim to reduce both the environmental impact and the living costs associated with the scheme. The scheme, designed by a Leeds-based architect, exceeds normal density requirements for its location.

The properties will be available for rent or shared-ownership (none of the properties will be available for purchase outright), but the promoters hope to attract people from all income levels and all sections of society. The scheme is being funded via sales of existing homes owned by members of the co-operative and via loans, but a community loan issue raised more than £600,000 to kick start the scheme.

Leeds Civic Trust commented that “support the proposal for co-housing, providing opportunity for individual choice and community engagement in design and future management and contributing to long-term sustainability, and providing affordable housing in an innovative way.”

ChaCo took inspiration from another housing co-operative scheme in West Leeds (LILAC) and there is growing interest in developing further grassroots schemes such as these in other parts of the city.

So, three schemes, supported by our planning committee, that are very much an antidote to some of the “bog standard” schemes we see so often.

Time will tell if they are successful, but they certainly have our support.

Design

Dreaming up a great place to live



An artist's impression of the Chapeltown Co-housing scheme

**Martin Hamilton
Leeds Civic Trust**



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year?

So, here we are. 2018 has arrived and, if you're like me, you'll be thinking ahead to what the new year will bring with it. All our member societies should by now have had an email from YHACS Treasurer Richard Ward inviting you to renew your membership of YHACS for another 12 months and I do hope we can look forward to lots of subscriptions landing on the YHACS doormat (or straight into our account). YHACS wouldn't exist without the support of its members – and, in this context, every member counts! Last year, we lost three member societies.

We're now busy planning the YHACS AGM, which takes place once again in Harrogate. We'll be at the Cedar Court Hotel on Saturday, 27th January with the option of joining us for a meal on Friday evening, 26th. These pre-AGM dinners are always enjoyable, so why not push the boat out and book a place to join us?

The AGM is when we look for new committee members and sometimes say goodbye to committee members who choose to stand down. In the same way that there'd be no YHACS without member societies, there'd be no YHACS committee without willing volunteers who are prepared to step up. So, do make yourself known if you are interested in serving: it's not an onerous responsibility and you will learn a lot. It can also be good fun!

Of course, 2018 brings its own challenges and potential surprises: How will the country meet the need for new housing? What's next for the Northern Powerhouse? Will there be any progress on devolution for Yorkshire – and if so, will it be at county or sub-county level? And what will be the implications of Brexit for our regional and national economies? We hope to be addressing some of these issues at future YHACS events during the year.

In 2017, YHACS held the first 'Futures Workshop' intended to get societies thinking about the challenges they face, not only in terms of what is happening on the regional and national stage but also in terms of their own localities and societies. The workshop seemed to go down well and we're offering another one, this time in Leeds on 24th February.

It's vital that all civic societies have an eye on the future, even if things are ticking along quite nicely at the moment. What would you do if a key member of your committee was taken ill or had to step down suddenly? Would you know how to run the things they do? How can you make sure that you are 'future-proofed' as a society? If you want to know more, I suggest you book a place on the February workshop as soon as possible!

Finally, as many of you will now know, I was made an MBE (a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in the New Year's Honours List. I was thrilled to receive the news which recognises the work I have done for the community in Wakefield over many years but also, I think, reflects well on the sector. It's reassuring to know that people value the work that civic societies do but that work is very much a collective effort and I hope that we shall see the civic movement continuing its good work for many years to come.

Kevin Trickett MBE

KEVIN TRICKETT MBE, DIP. EUR. HUM., BA(HONS), MBA, MA (PHIL)

Many Society Insight readers will already know Kevin Trickett, YHACS chair and Wakefield Civic Society president.

But did you know that he is also the deputy chair of Wakefield based arts charity “Beam” and a regular contributor to Wakefield business-to-business magazine *TopicUK*? Following his being made an MBE in the New Year’s Honours List, I thought I’d ask Kevin to tell us a little bit more about the man behind the award.

Society Insight Editor, David Moss: So Kevin, where were you born, and where did you grow up?

KT: I was born in Wakefield – at the County General Hospital, long since demolished and replaced with a housing scheme. Both my parents were from Wakefield although by grandfather Trickett originally came from Scarborough. My family (Mum, Dad, my younger brother and I) lived at Newton Hill, just outside Wakefield, where I went to Newton Hill primary school before going on to attend Rothwell Grammar School.

DM: Did you go to university?

KT: That was always the plan but I decided against it at the last moment. I’d taken my A-levels and been offered provisional places at a couple of universities to study zoology (Biology was one of my favourite subjects at school) but a visit to one of the universities to meet the professors I’d be studying under and to have a look around the campus rather put me off! On the way home from that visit, I decided I didn’t want to go to university after all. There was then just the small matter of telling my parents. Naturally, they were very disappointed as I would have been the first person in our family to have gone to university.

DM: What did you do instead?

KT: Mum decided that I wasn’t going to sit around the house all summer idling my time away. She saw a recruitment ad in the local paper for positions in the Home Civil Service – she phoned for an application form and made sure that I filled it in when it arrived! Again, while I wasn’t sure what it was I wanted to do, I was fairly sure that this probably wasn’t it. However, I received an invitation to an interview (in Dewsbury) and went along. Much to my surprise, I was offered a job working at the Wakefield Social Security Office, which I accepted. Even then, I only saw it as a temporary job for the summer until I sorted out what I *really* wanted to do.

After a few weeks, I decided that I quite liked being a Civil Servant and that temporary job for the summer turned into a 40-year career in which I rose to senior management. I went on to become an Assistant Manager at one of the Leeds social security offices from where I was asked to join a national project. I transferred to departmental headquarters, specialising in project and programme management. After short periods of being based in Preston, Bolton and Manchester, I went up to Newcastle, where I did nearly four years (while still keeping my home in Wakefield). I eventually ended up at Quarry House in Leeds although I was managing staff all over the country. I even had a team at Falkirk in Scotland at one point! I remember spending a lot of time driving between meetings and on trains with some very early starts and some very late finishes.

DM: Although you didn’t go to university, you have a string of qualifications after your name. How did that come about?



KT: There was a point in my career in the mid-1980s where, for a while, I acquired a responsibility for staff development. I was supposed to encourage staff to pursue qualifications to help to develop their careers. I remember having a conversation with one member of staff whom I was trying to steer into taking a degree course in her spare time with the Open University. She eventually agreed but on one condition: that I did one as well! So we both enrolled for a degree. It takes quite a few years to attain degree status when you're doing it part-time alongside a day job, so my first qualification was a Diploma in European Humanities - Dip. Eur. Hum.

I succeeded in getting the degree – a 2:1 Bachelor of Arts with honours – BA (Hons). Although unnamed (part of the Open University policy at the time), it was in humanities – European culture, history, art, music, literature, politics and so on, and including philosophy, a subject I really enjoyed. In fact, I enjoyed the philosophy element so much that I was keen to take a master's degree in the subject but was persuaded by my boss at the time to take a master's degree in business administration (MBA) instead as it would help my career. This I did over a period of three years, again fitting it around my day job, but then, after a couple of years off studying, I went back and did that master's in philosophy – so I also have the MA (Phil) as well! That's three degrees, all with the Open University, an organisation I admire greatly.

DM: That certainly would have kept you busy! How on earth did you find time to get involved with the civic society movement as well?

KT: It was through a friend, Geoff Wood, a member of Wakefield Civic Society, that I first became aware of the movement. My partner, Brian, and I were asked by Geoff if we'd like to go on one of the Society's coach excursion to some stately home or other. We did that a few times but then I went to one of their evening lectures. This was in 1989 – I remember it well because a former president of the Society asked me if I'd like to become a member of the Society in my own name. I did and then the year after, I was invited to join the committee (as was Geoff!). I was the youngest member of the committee at the time and continued to be so until the spring of 2002 when I had a phone call from the then secretary asking me to consider standing for the position of president of the Society at that year's AGM. I agreed and was duly elected – I should perhaps say that there was no competition!

At Wakefield, the president is also the chair – we don't separate the roles as do some societies. On appointment, I recognised that the Society faced the not uncommon problem of a declining and ageing membership and difficulty in recruiting and retaining committee members. I offered to undertake a root and branch review of everything the Society did and to begin a process of modernisation – developing a new brand, making use of IT (including email!), and then setting up a website.

The committee backed me and we set about doing what needed doing. At the time, the president had to stand for re-election every year but the constitution placed a three-year maximum on the length of time the president could serve. As I neared the end of my third year, the committee decided to recommend a change to the constitution to remove the three-year limit, which was accepted by the membership, and I've ended up being the president for almost 16 years! Why do I do it? Well, I take an active interest in what's happening in my city and being on the Society's committee gives me an opportunity to help shape the future of the place where I live.

During the time I've been 'in charge', the Society has undergone a



WAKEFIELD CIVIC SOCIETY
building interest in Wakefield

transformation. We have our own office at Wakefield Town Hall, courtesy of Wakefield Council, and we play a big part in the cultural life of the city as well as continuing to concentrate on planning and development matters. And I'm no longer the youngest member of the committee! We have been able to attract some very committed and lively individuals from all backgrounds to the committee and I couldn't have achieved what I've done without their active support. Of course, as president of Wakefield Civic Society, I soon got involved with YHACS and then with the Civic Trust, becoming a trustee of both. When the Civic Trust had to be closed down, I worked with others behind the scenes to set up Civic Voice.

How do I find the time? Well, as the old adage goes, if you want something done, you ask a busy person: I'm certainly that! I put it down to good time management and self-discipline. Do what matters and keep focused. Use time-saving techniques and make full use of modern technology. These days, you can run a successful organisation remotely: you don't always have to be in the same room, or even the same country, as your committee to keep things going. I make full use of email, social media, and even telephone conferencing to keep in touch with colleagues and members.

DM: So, with all this going on, do you have time for any hobbies or other interests?

KT: I certainly do! I'm an avid reader – whether it's fiction, biography, history or books on town planning and architecture, you'll usually find I have a couple of books on the go. I had to read extensively for my degree courses so you'll find books on management and philosophy on my book shelves as well. But I also like to travel, to go to the theatre and to keep the local restaurants in business! Since I gave up the day job five years ago (I hesitate to use the word 'retired'), I have also taken up writing and I do talks on some of my favourite subjects such as Art Deco and architecture.

DM: What's next then for Kevin Trickett? What are your priorities for the future?

KT: Now I've been made an MBE, I have a lot to live up to and I can't just walk away! I believe that if something's worth doing, it's worth doing with passion! I think that civic societies matter and I'd like to see a strong and even resurgent civic society movement across the country, not least of course in our region.

I know some societies are struggling but I hope this is something that can be addressed. I hate to hear of societies closing down! Some societies are managing a successful transition to modernity while retaining their core values and we need to look across at lessons we can learn from them. This is one advantage of being a member of YHACS: we bring societies together to share experiences and ideas. And with the help of my fellow YHACS committee members, we can offer help and support to our member societies. However, for that to work, local people have to be prepared to put the effort in. The real challenge is to get enthusiastic individuals to step up.

I don't underestimate the challenge – people are increasingly busy and there are many other attractions out there competing for their attention. If we are to succeed as a movement, we need to make the movement enticing, even sexy, and offer new ways of getting involved and new ways of doing things: we can't just keep doing what we've always done and expecting it to work.

I've enjoyed my time working with the civic society movement: I've met lots of great people and been to places I might not otherwise have visited. For me, the activity is its own reward, but I've learned so much: I've given countless talks, led innumerable guided walks, and am now a 'published author! (Wakefield Civic Society published my book on the history of Wood Street last year.)

And what's not to like about getting involved in something you care about?!

Kevin Trickett & David Moss



Also recognised in our area with an MBE was Darrel BATTERY, a past president of York Civic Trust, for services to heritage in York.

Congratulations to Darrell.

Editor

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE DIFFICULTIES WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Social scientists and politicians of many persuasions are agreed that there is a great need for more affordable housing in the UK.

However, there is little agreement as to how and where this should be provided or how it should be funded.

Definition

The definition of affordable housing is that it should cost no more than 80% of the average local market rent. Difficulties arise with this definition where the market is distorted, for example, where there is a shortage of property to rent

In the Bradford District....affordable homes for purchase are out of reach for people on the average salary which is just £20600 unless they have access to capital.

which pushes prices upwards, or a shortage of the right type of housing to rent, such as houses suitable for families. The

'affordability' is related to market conditions, not the income and the ability to pay of the person or family in need. In many cases, people cannot afford to pay even 50% of standard rent charges for modest accommodation and thus find themselves living with other members of their families, or in houses of multiple occupation. With the current competition for homes and continued low rates of pay, some people are condemned to live for many years in poor quality, expensive-to-run, overcrowded accommodation that they will never call their own - this cannot be right.

In the Bradford District....

Affordable homes for purchase are out of reach for people on the average

salary in the Bradford District which is just £20 600, unless they have access to capital. The bottom of the market is quite low but many houses under £50 000 are clearly in poor condition and need a lot spending on them and many would not attract a mortgage offer. House prices were reported in October 2017 to have fallen by 50% in some parts of the district, while in the highest priced area estate agents report that prices have risen by 16% in the last year. The extremes of the market are demonstrated in just a few miles. There is some property that has been on the market for a very long time – years in some cases, while in other parts of the District houses are sold before they are even advertised.

Most people needing affordable housing would like to be located close to where they work, because they cannot afford the time or the cost of commuting.....

Developers appear to prefer to build new houses on green field sites, which are often at the edge of the built-up area and some distance from essential infrastructure such as workplaces, schools and railway stations. These greenfield sites tend to be less problematic than brown field sites and consequently more profitable. Larger houses are more profitable than smaller ones. When they are requested to provide affordable housing, developers frequently make payment in lieu of making such a provision. Such funding might not provide affordable housing in the same area.

Infrastructure

Most people needing affordable housing would like to be located close to where they work, because they cannot afford the time or the cost of commuting. They would prefer to access shops, banks, health, sports and recreation facilities without having to make long journeys. If they have children, they need to be near to accessible schools. There's no guarantee that new housing estates will come with the right infrastructure.

Upwards mobility?

There is an expectation nowadays that housing provision is a ladder and that most people desire to make their way upwards. Gone is the modest aspiration of a lifelong tenancy on a council house that was possible in the 1950s and 1960s. Much affordable housing is now only available on fairly short term agreements causing people to move every few years. This can be very disruptive for families.

Possible Solutions – there are no magic answers

We need to ensure that new houses which receive planning permission are actually built. Urban brownfield sites may need to be compulsorily purchased if nothing is happening. In the leafy suburbs, some 'garden grabbing' may be necessary. We must never forget that infrastructure needs to be planned from the beginning – not left to chance.

Helen Kidman



BRADFORD TO LAUNCH BLUE PLAQUES SCHEME IN 2018

Bradford Civic Society has announced its intention to introduce a network of blue heritage plaques to the city, beginning with a special inaugural plaque at the birthplace of the world-famous Brontë family.

Although Bradford has a very small network of heritage tiles in existence already, they haven't been updated in some years and many are in a poor condition. The new plaques will be bigger, bolder and do more to recognise notable Bradfordians and not just buildings.

The idea to launch *Blue Plaques for Bradford* in 2018 was inspired after the owner of the Brontë family's birthplace – Thornton resident Mark De Luca – got in touch with Bradford Civic Society to request a plaque ahead of the 200th anniversary of Emily Brontë's birth.

A mock-up of the inaugural plaque has already been produced, and the first major corporate funder is now in place.

Bradford Chairman Si Cunningham says: *"Ours is a city of pioneers, reformers and cultural superstars, so it's right that we start to do more to mark our proud heritage and inspire future generations to love where they live. Blue plaques look great in any town or city, but I'm particularly looking forward to seeing them on some of Bradford's fine Yorkshire stone buildings. I'm grateful to Martin Hamilton of Leeds Civic Trust, who's been an incredibly helpful advisor as we look to bring Bradford's own blue plaque scheme to life."*



Bradford Civic Society intends to formally launch the scheme in February this year with a public meeting at which Bradfordians will be invited to nominate people or places worthy of a plaque.

For more information, or to offer Bradford any advice or support, please email bradfordcivic@outlook.com

Si Cunningham

A TALE OF 3 RED BT TELEPHONE KIOSKS.....!!

Around 6 months ago we decided we should adopt one of the Village's three iconic red kiosks.

We opted for one of our two Grade 2 listed kiosks located just on the perimeter of the Village Centre and like most these days, rarely used. For the geeks amongst you: *it's a K6 kiosk designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and introduced to celebrate King George the V's Silver Jubilee. As most of you will know it differs from its predecessor the K2 model because of the bigger distance between the vertical bars! By the end of the 1920's there were over 20,000 of these kiosks around the Country.*



Now moving on.....

We completed the online form, which was simple and then we went into a 3-month consultation period, during which time a formal BT notice appeared in the kiosk notifying any would be users of what was happening. We also notified Bradford Council, being a listed 'building'. Then what happened? oh yes.....4 months later we were notified that our application had been successful, we signed a 15-page contract (which basically said 'over to you') and being a registered Charity we stumped up the dosh: £1. In the meantime, and purely coincidentally, red kiosk number 2 (at the other end of the Village) was removed by a big truck much to the concern of the residents living nearby. Support for our little project doubled overnight!

Once BT got our money (!) the de-commissioning happened virtually overnight.

Work kicked off on a major renovation job 2 months ago and at the time of writing the exterior has been sanded down from top to bottom, completely undercoated and finished with a tin of 'official' BT red paint. The base painted black, the interior red and the interior roof white. (BT providing: 4 tins of paint, 4 brushes, sheets and white spirit and a very comprehensive set of instructions). The interior light was left intact and we are not paying for the 'juice'! Now, the only thing we've had to buy so far is a special tin of gold paint for the 4 'Crowns' located on each side of the kiosk. They do look smart.

This little Project has really got the Village talkingour membership numbers have had a boost and we now have a prominent 'physical' presence in the Village....

We've invited residents to put forward ideas and we are reviewing these. We will of course have to 'fit out' the interior depending on what we finally decide to use it for. We have ordered 4 Perspex strips to replace the current 'telephone box' ones at the top, worded '**Addingham Civic Society**'.....what else?

This little Project has really got the Village talking (nothing much happens in Addingham!) our membership numbers have had a boost and we now have a prominent 'physical' presence in the Village. We don't anticipate maintenance being too onerous and as the kiosk is right next to a row of cottages where the residents patrol the area vigilantly, there are no worries with vandals.....and it is Addingham after all ! To complete matters we removed the blue BT Telephone (arrow) at the end of the street, we ended up needing a hacksaw and a big hammer to complete the job.

What about Kiosk number 3 I hear you ask?

Well we checked with BT and last year there were just over 30 calls made from it, not a lot we know, but being the only remaining public phone box we decided to leave it that way. It's bang in the Centre of the Village as well.... outside the Old School House for those of you who know the area!! BT have assured us that if this one ever appears on their radar for removal they will let us know. Being the other listed kiosk it's probably quite safe anyway.

Because there will be some expense going forward we applied to the 2017 Village Gala Committee for funds and received £100. Excellent. Any bits and pieces that we may, at some stage require, can be bought on-line, there are a number of companies specialising in stuff for old BT kiosks!

So, there you go and here is a couple of photos of before and after.



Jim Robinson



SPEN VALLEY CIVIC SOCIETY REMEMBERS WORLD WAR ONE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

At 2pm on 2nd December 1914 a terrifying explosion happened at Henry Ellison's Chemical Works in Heckmondwike, where picric acid crystals were being ground into powder, to make Lyddite shells for World War One artillery guns.

The massive blast sent a dense cloud of yellow dust into the air, reduced the factory to rubble and catapulted heavy machinery into nearby fields. According to the local paper, it "looks as if it has been visited by the German Army." Of 15 men who were working in or near the factory, ten died and another six were seriously injured. The victims' bodies were badly mutilated and had to be identified by the contents of their pockets. Nearby houses were destroyed and many residents were injured. Further afield, houses were

damaged and thousands of windows shattered.

Due to wartime censorship, this catastrophe was not broadcast. It is not clear if victims' remains were buried or where; the victims' families weren't compensated; and until now there has been nothing to recognise Heckmondwike's first civilian casualties of the Great War 1914-1918.

They were:

*Percy Ashton, of Heckmondwike
William Berry, of Low Moor
Arthur Cooper, a mason's labourer from Heckmondwike
Albert Firth, of Heckmondwike
Nimrod Firth, (Albert's brother), of Heckmondwike
John Morton, a labourer from Staincliffe
James Nicholas, the foreman, from Thorntonville, Liversedge
George Terry, a labourer of White Lee
Clifford Thornton, of Heckmondwike
Frederick Wright, a chemist, of Heckmondwike*



Left to right - R Richard Grylls, Erica Amende, Max Rathmell, John & Barry Nicholas; Councillor Steve Hall and John Appleyard

Spen Valley Civic Society decided to put this right, and 103 years later, at the exact time of the explosion, Councillor Steve Hall marked the installation of a plaque with members of the Civic Society and guests John & Barry Nicholas, grandsons of James Nicholas.

Erica Amende

Just one year ago,



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS, BEVERLEY CIVIC SOCIETY



*Three of Hull's City of Culture volunteers at Beverley Friary, 2017
(photo courtesy of Barbara English)*

Here at Beverley Civic Society we look back with pleasure on the Heritage Open Days (HOD) of 2017, and with anticipation that 2018 will be even bigger and better.

As you Civic Society people will know, HOD is a national initiative, with assistance from the central site to help local societies to open a wide range of buildings, and provide associated events such as walks and talks.

This year the Open Days designated nationally are 6-9th & 13-16th September, and there is a theme, 'Extraordinary Women' for which we have chosen ten (Whitby CS has given us license to promote St Hilda of Whitby, who taught our founding father, St John of Beverley). The Open Days are England's largest festival of history and culture, bringing together over 2,500 organisations, 5,000 events and 40,000 volunteers: all the events are free. You do not have to occupy all those days, and we are settling for 7th and 8th September.

In 2017 the Beverley Civic Society was delighted to be associated with Hull Civic Society's magnificent and vast HOD programme for Hull's year as UK City of Culture. Beverley put on some nineteen events, some in conjunction with other organisations: the joint approach worked very well. Events in Beverley included open houses, public buildings including County Hall's Council Chamber and the East Riding Theatre, town walks, Beverley Friary, special events in churches and readings. All the venues attracted numerous visitors: there was no official counting, but two private houses alone clocked up 500+ visits.

This year we are again grateful to Hull for including us in their planning for an equally magnificent programme to match that of 2017.

Hull Civic Society last year produced an 84-page brochure, showing all the opportunities on offer. The wonderful City of Culture Volunteers welcomed and guided visitors, playing a very important part in the Open Days.

All the feedback we received, from hosts, visitors, and Volunteers, was positive and all wanted to do it all again in 2018.

It's good to feel we are part of this nationwide movement to show off our amazing heritage: we would encourage all Civic Societies to have a go, knowing that very many of you do already.

Barbara English



*Georgian lamppost base, Beverley, one of the town's many small and delightful 'listed structures'.
Made in Sheffield (photo by Barbara English)*

YHACS PETER SPAWFORTH AWARD 2017

The winner of the 2017 YHACS Peter Spawforth Award will be announced at the YHACS AGM to be held on 27th January 2018 at Cedar Court Hotel in Harrogate.

The essence of the competition was for Societies to demonstrate to the judges (the YHACS Committee) that real progress was made during the year from 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017 to entitle it to be called "Regional Civic Society of the Year".



Nine Societies submitted entries this year - Bradford, Goole, Hornsea, Howden, Huddersfield, Hull, Ilkley, Scarborough and Wakefield Civic Societies, and judging was carried out by the YHACS Committee in early December looking for evidence of "Content", "Innovation" and "Impact".

The overall winner will hold the prestigious trophy (left) for a year and receive a cheque for £200. The runner-up will receive £100 and the third prize is of £50.

David Moss



THE CIVIC VOICE CONVENTION: A PERSONAL VIEW

When we realised that the Annual Civic Voice Convention would be held in Wakefield this year, we decided to attend. We had not been before and wondered ---Would it be useful? Would it be interesting? The answer to both questions turned out to be resounding 'Yes'.

We had to choose which workshops we wanted to attend in advance. We had plenty of choice. On Day 1 we attended the workshop on Heritage Listing to start with. This was very useful as we have had discussions about this topic with Doncaster Council. Rob Lloyd Sweet co-ordinated the session. However because two societies both undertook presentations, the second one from Lytham St Anne's Civic Society seemed a bit rushed. We needed more time but it was a packed agenda.

The second workshop was on Community Led Conservation Appraisals with an interesting demonstration from Deal Civic Society as to how societies could take the lead with appraisals when there was no Conservation Officer. Although interesting I also viewed it with alarm as it was clearly labour intensive needing at least six people for each appraisal, which would be difficult for many societies I felt. And do we really want this local authority role to be pushed on to Civic Societies? Helping with appraisals rather than taking the lead is valuable work though.

The visit of the day was to Wakefield County Hall but there were other choices too, including the theatre (seen on a YHACS visit) and the Cathedral. We had never visited the County Hall before and were really impressed with it. A very grand and remarkably little altered Victorian edifice. We also thought Laura Sandys keynote speech on the on the plight of some Conservation Areas was excellent. Laura is the Vice President of Civic Voice.

.....and would we go again? The answer is 'Yes'!

Unfortunately we could not stay for the dinner but returned the next

day for the AGM and more workshops and talks. Trevor Mitchell, from Historic England, is always a good speaker. Of the workshops we attended on the second day I will just mention the one (we attended three) run by Ian Harvey from Civic Voice on exchanging ideas with other societies. He got us all standing, mixing and explaining how we worked. We were pleased to note that Doncaster Civic Trust was the cheapest Society in the room at £5 per head! There were also excellent presentations from Paul Cartwright at Pontefract and Margaret Hicks-Clark at Goole Civic Societies respectively.

One of the key benefits of any such meeting is exchanging ideas with other societies. So, for example, we spoke to Birmingham Civic Society about their Education Project so that we could compare it with ours as well as many others including Blackpool Civic Trust who told us about their tram restoration project. So any criticisms? Organising such an event is complex so nothing is perfect. However we would have liked space for lunch on the first day. Also it was difficult to choose workshops as Civic Voice kept changing what was on offer in the week or two before the conference, although I do know availability of speakers was an issue for them.

And would we go again? The answer is 'Yes'!

Doncaster Civic Trust was represented by Peter Coote and Tina Anderson

Peter Coote

2018 CIVIC VOICE DESIGN AWARDS

The Civic Voice Design Awards are the people's choice for architecture and the built environment.



Unique in England, the awards are a national celebration of well-designed new build, heritage and public realm projects **nominated by local community organisations**. What makes the awards different from other industry awards is that they recognise those buildings, places and spaces that are loved by local people, for both their high quality design and positive impact on the local community.

Civic Voice invites communities across England to nominate examples of well-designed new build, heritage and public realm projects in their area. The people's choice for architecture and the built environment, the Civic Voice Design Awards celebrate schemes that are nominated by the people who live alongside, use and are affected by these projects, and who have a real understanding of their impact on their local area.



What make the Civic Voice Design Awards special is that they are not the usual industry awards where professionals give awards to other professionals. Nominated and supported by local people, the awards recognise places that are loved by local people for both their high quality design and positive contribution to the local area.

Recognising projects both large and small, previous winners have included Winton Chapel (right), Winchester (2017), Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool (2016) and Gloucester Services (Northbound) (2015). The key theme running through all winning projects is communities celebrating high quality design and having a great community story behind the project.



It is free to enter the awards and there are four categories:

- **New buildings**
- **Housing**
 - ◊ Less than 50 dwellings
 - ◊ 50 dwellings or more
- **Historic buildings that have been re-used, retro-fitted or refurbished**
- **Public realm and open spaces**

Due to the overwhelming number of award-winning projects within Conservation Areas last year and continuing Civic Voice's Big Conservation Conversation, there will also be a special prize this year for a development within a Conservation Area, which could be awarded from any of the above categories.

The closing date for applications is **14th February 2018**.

For more details go to <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/get-involved/designawards/>

David Moss

Article abstracted from Civic Voice's website www.civicvoice.org.uk



ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN HERITAGE: FREE WORKSHOP IN LEEDS

As we are now into the final year of the commemorations of the centenary of the First World War, we want to ensure that communities will continue to cherish and protect local war memorials beyond November 2018.



Recognising that young people are the custodians of the future, we have organised a free workshop aimed at anyone who wants to engage with schools and/or youth groups to encourage them to explore their local heritage.

The workshop will take place in Leeds, 17-19 Wharf Street on 21st February, 9.45am – 1pm.

Led by the Learning Officer at War Memorials Trust, the workshop will help you discover:

- The best ways to approach a school/youth group
- Ways of linking activities to the curriculum
- Different types of learning activities that can be carried out with school or youth groups
- Resources available online
- Community stories and top tips from volunteers who have worked with schools

Although the workshop will use examples of activities relating to war memorials, the content of the workshop will be applicable to those wishing to engage with schools and youth groups with other types of heritage too.

For more details and to reserve your free place please visit <http://bit.ly/2D74a4U> or call 0121 792 8177.

If you have any queries about the workshop please do not hesitate to contact me.

Anna Wilson
Senior Development Officer, Civic Voice

Photo courtesy of Civic Voice

YORKSHIRE PLACES PICTURE QUIZ



Here are eight photos—somewhat clipped—of scenes in 5 towns and 3 cities in Yorkshire; all are YHACS member societies.

Identify them all. Then explain: How do these places lead to the number 98?

Email your answer to David Moss

The winner will be announced at the Spring 2018 YHACS Meeting in Leeds and a small prize may be appropriate.

Editor





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.

Sat 27th January	YHACS AGM at Cedar Court Hotel, Harrogate
Wed 31st January	<u>POSTPONED</u> - APPG Meeting in London, Westminster
Tues 13th February	Civic Voice War Memorials Workshop in Wakefield
Weds 21st February	Civic Voice Heritage Workshop for Schools-Leeds (see p18)
Tues 13th March	APPG Meeting in London, Westminster - NPPF Future
Spring 2018	YHACS Members meeting in Leeds - date tbc
Summer 2018	YHACS Members meeting in Ripon - date tbc

NEXT YHACS MEETING

SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY 1:00 - 4:00 PM

AGM AND MEMBERS MEETING

AT

CEDAR COURT HOTEL, HARROGATE, HG1 5AH
GUEST SPEAKER : TBC

CONTACT: KEVIN TRICKETT ON INFO@YHACS.ORG.UK

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