



YORKSHIRE & HUMBER
Association of Civic Societies

Member of



SOCIETY INSIGHT

Spring 2019
Volume 15, Issue 1

**"HOUSING
DESIGN"**

21ST CENTURY COUNCIL HOUSING... ...A WATERSHED OR JUST MORE "WATERHOUSE"?

INSIDE PAGES.....

**View from the
Chair.....4-5**

**YHACS Design
Workshop.....6-7**

**Queen's Award for
Voluntary
Service..... 8-10**

**Dales Roving
Reporter10-11**

**Addingham's WWI Roll
of Honour update... 12**

**Skipton's WWI
Booklet..... 13**

Brainteaser No 5... 13

**Civic Societies as
Cultural
Organisations?...14-15**

**2018 Spawforth
Awards.....16**

CFP information.....17

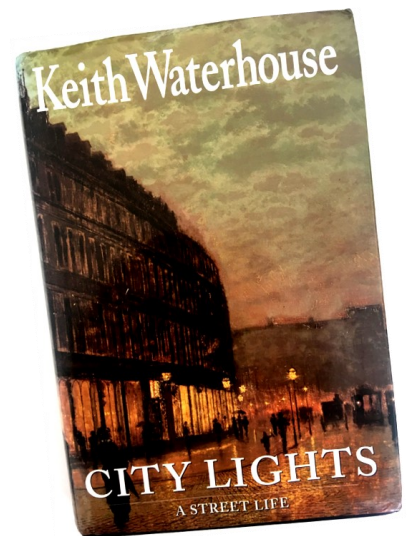
**Next YHACS
Meeting.....18**

Future Events.....18

2019 marks two significant events. The first is the centenary of the publication of the 1919 Housing Act, and the second is the birth of my son, Robin! What is the connection, you might ask?

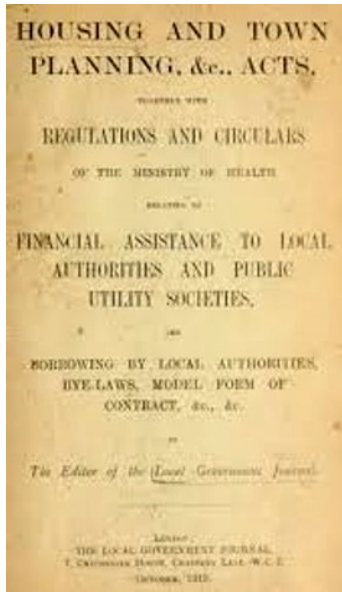
As many of you will know, the early weeks of a baby's life involves short periods of sleep interrupted by regular bouts of crying and feeding (and that is just the parents!) It was during these sleepy interludes whilst on paternity leave, that I took the opportunity to read a book that a member of Leeds Civic Trust gave me just before Christmas. The book was "City Lights" by Keith Waterhouse.

Keith Waterhouse, who died nearly ten years ago (and so is almost eligible for a Blue Plaque under our rules) is one of our city's most famous literary sons. He started his journalistic career at the Yorkshire Evening Post, before becoming the darling of Fleet Street, with his columns in the Mirror and Mail. He also wrote novels, plays and films. "Billy Liar" is probably his most famous combination of all three, but he also wrote for shows such as "The Frost Report" and "That Was The Week That Was". With fellow Liner Willis Hall he wrote the screenplay to the classic film "Whistle Down The Wind", children's drama "Worzel Gummidge" and "Queenie's Castle", the situation comedy set in the Quarry Hill Flats in Leeds starring Diana Dors.



Keith Waterhouse's home in Halton Moor today

His memoir "City Lights" is an affectionate recounting of his childhood, adolescence and early adulthood in Leeds before the bright lights of London beckoned. He combines evocative descriptions of buildings that we still know and love to this day (Corn Exchange, the Majestic, Kirkgate Market – where his father had a stall) with keen observations about the geography and topography of the city. The book is ultimately about the importance of places, and how we access them (much of the narrative recounts walking and cycling, and a fair amount catching the tram) but it is also about home, and this is where the 1919 Housing Act comes in.



Front cover of the *Housing and Town Planning Act 1919*

Waterhouse refers to the great town planner and subsequently Leeds civic architect R. A.H. Livett, who was responsible for many of the pre-war Council Estates in Leeds, as well as the aforementioned Quarry Hill Flats (*right*).

He picked up the baton provided by the 1919 Housing Act which proposed “homes for heroes” through the subsidy of public housing (though the building programme only started in earnest in the 1930s. Of course, local authority housebuilding re-commenced after WW2 through the construction of the famous prefabricated Airey Houses – named after Leeds developer and builder Sir Edwin Airey.



Following a period in Middleton, Keith Waterhouse moved to the Livett-designed Halton Moor estate. It was a far cry from his earliest memories of housing in Leeds. It was a large spacious property built to Parker Morris standards but in a key passage in the book he has the following to say by way of criticism: “*If the planners had got Middleton wrong, they had got Halton Moor even more wrong. It was half a mile to anywhere anyone wanted to go...the tram stop...the shops... the school... the fish and chip shop. There was no public library, no church, no scout hut, no park, no cinema.*”

.....developments in our suburbs and outlying districts continue to be built without the amenities that make them liveable.

Fast forward 100 years, and have we really learned anything? Large scale (admittedly private) developments in our suburbs and outlying districts continue to be built without the amenities that make them liveable. It was a problem in the 1930s and it is a problem now.



Saxton Gardens – as refurbished by “Urban Splash”

2019 is important for a third reason. Following an announcement last year by the government, local authorities are once again being allowed to borrow to invest in Council House building programmes.

Here in Leeds, the plan is to build a couple of hundred properties a year over the next few years – so no more large estates of the type that Waterhouse describes, but a significant building programme nonetheless.

The question is whether we have learned from history?

Will the dwellings be exemplary in terms of architectural design? Will they be spacious? Will they be zero carbon? Will they be near amenities? Will decent amenity space be provided? These are some of the questions we will be asking Leeds City Council in the months and years ahead.

The early signs are interesting – a planning application has just been submitted for modular Council housing in Holbeck (*below*). This is a scheme our planning committee will be scrutinising.

Leeds moves forward with modular housing

🕒 18 Feb Leeds City Council and building contractor United Living are proposing to build what they claim will be the UK's largest modular council housing development.



A planning application for a fully modular council housing and apartment scheme has been submitted by Leeds City Council and United Living.

If approved, the scheme at Leeds Meynell, in Holbeck, will see 28 homes constructed in less than nine months, with the first residents moving in by early 2020. The average construction time for a development of this size is usually nearly two years months.

United Living has been appointed as the principal contractor for the development and is working in partnership with Premier Modular and William Saunders Architects.

Manufacture of the new homes is planned to begin in late spring 2019 at an off-site facility in Brandesburton, East Yorkshire. The property mix will comprise 14 apartments across two blocks, alongside 10 individual two-bedroom homes and four three-bedroom homes. Premier Modular will

When my son Robin comes to write his memoirs Keith Waterhouse-style about growing up in Leeds, will he talk with fondness about the revival in Council house building in the 2020s or will he simply cut and paste a paragraph from his dad's old copy of *"City Lights"*? Time will tell.

Martin Hamilton
Leeds Civic Trust

Photos courtesy of Martin Hamilton



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Something to Celebrate!

This year, YHACS achieves something of a milestone. The first meeting of YHASA, as we were then known, took place on 27th November 1999 – which means that we are just eight months away from our 20th birthday!

That's quite an achievement and it is interesting to pause and reflect how we have managed to keep going when other regional associations have not all fared so well.

We have many advantages in YHACS that are perhaps not shared in other parts of the country. First of all, we have a unique regional identity. Despite the best efforts of politicians and legislators in London (how little they know us!) who have tried to carve up the region into different entities, the 'County of Yorkshire' survives and, certainly for anyone born and bred in the region, there is a strong affinity with the 'Yorkshire brand'. YHACS as an organisation maps easily onto the geography and, being the sort of people we are, we even allow for (and indeed welcome) our neighbours from across the Humber on the basis that, while they might not be in Yorkshire, they can at least see Yorkshire, the land across the water.....

However, it's not just the Yorkshire identity and brand that works for us. We have the added advantage of being a large and diverse region. We have stunning landscapes, beautiful coastline and a good mix of rural, coastal, urban and suburban areas including seven cities. This breadth and range of experience means that when our members come together, there is always lots to talk about!

As a regional association, we long ago recognised that the diversity of our membership means that we should avoid taking positions on matters that affect our members in different ways: the main reason for this being that our members will have different perspectives and priorities based on their own locations and needs. For example, whether or not you favour wind turbines or the introduction of HS2 will depend to some extent on whether or not you see positive or negative impacts on the place where you live, or whether you are likely to find yourself living next door to one or the other – it's not for us to tell you how to react and respond. Yes, our guiding principle has always been that while you can always tell a Yorkshireman, you can't tell him much. Instead, we seek to provide access to information and advice and leave it to local societies to make of it what they will. If nothing else, it means we don't fall out!

Another strength has been our people, particularly those who turn up and do things. We have always had a strong committee. Originally established under the leadership of Kevin Grady who then handed the baton to Peter Cooper (who in turn handed it to me – thanks for that Peter), the day-to-day running of the Association has been taken forward by a supportive and competent committee. People come and people go, but some, it seems, go on for forever. The committee is currently 14 strong including Peter as our (non-voting) President and our latest recruit, Alan Goodrum from Halifax Civic Trust whom we co-opted at a meeting of the committee earlier this month. Welcome Alan!

I'd like to think that we are innovative organisation that keeps pace with the times. We make good use of IT and social media – that should go without

saying these days, of course. We organise lively and informative events, including some topic-specific workshops, and have an excellent newsletter. We keep things light while tackling some serious matters as well. Our members seem to like it, although there's plenty of opportunity for others who haven't yet experienced one of our events to come along and see what they've been missing all these years.

One of the innovations we introduced recently was to create a class of membership for individuals. It didn't take long to recruit our first member – a big shout out then to Judith Blackburn of Threshfield, North Yorkshire, not just for being our first individual member but because as well as enrolling for membership she agreed to become a 'roving reporter' on rural matters for this newsletter. Her first article can be found in this issue and we hope this is just the start of many to come.

Anyway, assuming we are still going strong in November, the YHACS committee has agreed that we should mark our 20th anniversary and we are looking to hold some sort of celebratory lunch one Saturday in mid-November. More details when we have them but I do hope you will be able to join us.

YHACS Design Workshop

We held our first Design Workshop over two days in February at the Cedar Court Hotel in Wakefield. Some 25 people attended. Peter Cooper has written an article about the workshop which you can find later in the newsletter. Feedback shows that people found the event useful but there were some reservations that day two was too focused on the theme of alternative housing provision (co-housing and community housing). The workshop was experimental and we have learned from this. If there is sufficient demand, we hope to be able to repeat the exercise but, should we do so, we will offer two separate one-day events rather than a combined two-day workshop.

One part of the feedback that was particularly rewarding was that people generally found the event to have been good value – indeed, most thought we could have justified asking up to twice what we did to cover the cost of facilitation and refreshments that were provided. We will bear this in mind!

Our thanks to Integreat Plus who facilitated the workshop for us and to the interesting panel of speakers they assembled across the two days.

YHACS Spring Event, Sheffield, 23rd March 2019

Papers for the event have now been issued. As you will be aware, we have teamed up with Civic Voice for this event and there will be morning and afternoon sessions looking at the design of housing developments and the response from the civic movement to the government's commission on Building Better, Building Beautiful.

I hope a good number of members will be able to attend to justify both the effort that goes into organising these events and also the cost which on this occasion is being met by our co-hosts Sheffield Civic Trust and Civic Voice. Our thanks to both organisations.



Kevin Trickett MBE



DESIGN REALLY MATTERS THE YHACS DESIGN WORKSHOP

Where? Wakefield.

When? 5th/6th February 2019

Facilitators: Integreat Plus, a not-for-profit social enterprise consultancy based in Sheffield.

The first YHACS Design Workshop was advertised as 'providing help in developing skills to better understand how to make sense of plans – particularly in identifying what constitutes good design'. Did it succeed? I attended the workshop over two days - what did I make of it?

What were our guidelines and boundaries? What were our terms of reference? The National Planning Policy Framework states that: *'The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development... summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development and the creation of high-quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve.'*

So, where do we start?

According to Sir Henry Wotton (1568 -1639), *'Well building hath three conditions: Firmness, Commodity and Delight'* and I was pleased to hear this famous quotation at the start of the session. Each delegate was given a copy of the Councillor's Companion, a 44-page guide for councillors to help them ensure that our neighbourhoods are well designed... You can download a copy of the guide on the Design Network website (look in 'The Knowledge' section) - <https://bit.ly/2O1rUKN>

Most of the first day was taken up with practical exercises. We were given photographs of buildings and invited to sketch improvements on them. We were also given drawings setting out the layout of a large housing development and invited to examine it using 'Building for Life 12', a government-endorsed industry standard. This excellent document allows development schemes to be assessed using 12 questions related to three main topics:

- Integrating into the neighbourhood
- Creating a Place
- Street and Home

Typical questions are: does the scheme integrate with its surroundings, does it have good access to public transport, does it create a place with a locally inspired or distinctive character and will public and private spaces be clearly defined and designed? For each of the twelve questions the development is checked, with a pass being green, issues that may be subject to constraints being amber and a red-light giving warning that a particular aspect of a proposed development will need to be reconsidered. The object is to secure as many greens as possible. A copy of this document is available free on the internet, at Building for Life 12 - <https://bit.ly/2F0epqp>

There was plenty to get your head around. For me, the collapsing jellies were a highlight. The message was that we should beware of being seduced by original proposals, the end result may disappoint. An example was cited where a developer ran out of money and reduced the specification of the cladding of a high-rise building, completely transforming its appearance. So we should 'insist that quality is retained throughout the process to avoid a consented project deteriorating like neglected jelly'.



The second day focussed on housing and innovative ways of providing accommodation for the future. Self-build and co-housing schemes were highlighted, and we had a presentation from a member of a co-housing community who gave us the end user's perspective. Inevitably there was a large amount of information to digest when tackling such a complex subject. But one fact stood out for me. Agricultural land is worth £21k per hectare, but with planning permission that figure can go up to £6M. Such values must put pressure on the design and development process.

So was the event useful?

A planning application was recently submitted in Scarborough which proposed to rip the fine roof off one of our most prominent buildings and convert it to an open-air beer garden. Emboldened by what I had seen and heard at Wakefield, I objected to the proposal on heritage and design grounds. I was very pleased to hear that the application was rejected by the Borough Council on design grounds because the Local Plan Policy 'requires development to meet the principles of good design by demonstrating that the detailed design responds positively to the local context, in terms of its scale, height, layout, materials, colouring, fenestration and architectural detailing'.

And yet only six people had objected to this egregious proposal, many of them just objecting to the noise and disturbance that a beer garden would cause. It takes about 20 minutes to lodge an objection which you can now do from the comfort of your own home. How do we get people to use the system, people who will be quick enough to complain afterwards and say why didn't 'they' do something about it? A subject for the next workshop perhaps!

In summary, the lessons I took away were that, when reviewing a design, we should question everything, assume nothing, aim for the best that can be achieved and reject the mediocre. I think the course was well organised, worthwhile and achieved its objects although there must be much more to do. I would certainly recommend attendance at any future events.

Finally, thanks should go to our YHACS chairman, Kevin Trickett MBE who put in all the hard work needed to organise this event.

Peter Cooper
Scarborough Civic Society



QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE (QAVS)

This most prestigious award is the equivalent of the MBE for Voluntary Groups. It would be really terrific if a Civic Society was submitted for consideration, and was successful, or indeed if several were.

The opportunity to make nominations opens up on 1st April 2019.

Members of Civic Societies may also be aware of other groups which might be suitable candidates. If this is the case, there are two options;

1. Make such groups aware of the scheme (so they can find someone to nominate them) or
2. The Civic Society can nominate the group.

Criteria / Key points

- The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities. The QAVS sets the benchmark of excellence in Volunteering.
- Any group carrying out voluntary work that provides a social, economic or environmental service to the local community may be nominated for the award.
- Each group is assessed on the benefit it brings to the local community and its standing within that community.
- A group which is part /branch of a National Voluntary Group is eligible. However in such a case the nomination should demonstrate how the volunteer effort which it is sought to recognise is locally driven and resourced.

...The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities.

- To be eligible a group needs to have operated to a high standard for at least 3 years.
- The QAVS is not a way to recognise endurance. If an organisation has been in existence for 50 years that is great, but not enough to meet the criteria. Exceptional volunteering is being recognised.
- The group may have paid members but more than half the people who work in the group must be volunteers.
- More than half the group's volunteers must have the right of residence in the UK.
- The group must have the appropriate insurance(s) required for its work.
- The group must satisfy requirements to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, if appropriate.
- To be successful it is important to be able to demonstrate during the assessment visit, which will follow a submission, that the volunteers have leading roles in managing and influencing the group.
- The individual making the nomination should not be part of the group (not trustees, not paid staff and not volunteers).
- Two letters of support are required, these are part of the "On Line" submission. Again, not from the organisation itself. The letters should be from beneficiaries of the group, from others who know of the good work the group does. They should bring the work of the group, and the benefits it delivers, to

life. How have they seen it make a difference?

- Entry is free.

All nominations are to be made via the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service website. <https://qavs.culture.gov.uk/>

Nomination should be made between 1st April 2019 and mid-September 2019 (latter date not yet published).

Process after Submission:

- All submissions are reviewed in Whitehall, Sept / early October and then passed to the Lieutenancy offices.
- Each nominated group is assessed in the county where the group works. The Assessment is led by the Lord-Lieutenant of the county supported by a panel of helpers, usually the Deputy Lieutenants. Each nominated group will be visited, usually by 2 DLs, and asked a number of questions in a structured way. It is basically an "audit" which probes the suitability of the group to receive the Award.
- Following the Assessment visits the Lord-Lieutenant, and his team, will review all submissions and make his recommendations to Whitehall. There is inevitably a further selection process there before the final decisions are made.
- Winners of the Award will be announced in early June 2020 in the London Gazette and also by the office of the County / City's Lord-Lieutenant.
- The Awards are presented by the Lord-Lieutenant at a ceremony.

If you wish to check if a group has been previously successful you can do this via the London Gazette, you have to go through each year and look by County:

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/all-notices/content/100981>

- A group is not permitted to nominate itself, but it can prod other people to do so. Good nominees include beneficiaries and people of standing in the community who are aware of the benefits delivered by the group.
- The process for individual Honours is secret, never discussed with the individual.
- The process for QAVS is not secret. The nominator may not have enough information to be able to compile the submission successfully.
 - The nominator will need to check at an early stage that the organisation has not previously received a QAVS Award or been submitted unsuccessfully in the last 3 years.
 - The nominator will probably need to obtain, from a key individual in the organisation, much of the necessary information to complete the form successfully.
 - The organisation may have to use their information about their beneficiaries to obtain the letters of support and supply them to the nominator.
 - It is important however to understand that there is a tough selection process and no guarantee of success.
- Groups of Hospital Friends and Supporters do terrific work, without them undoubtedly the NHS would be in greater difficulty than it is. There are however many of them and whilst they do vital work they are all, basically, doing the same thing. If you are thinking of nominating such a group it is vital to get over what this group does which **really** makes a difference, what is about the volunteering effort which is excellent and marks them out as being worthy of the award.

The Guidance Notes are accessible: <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/guidance-notes>.

Nominating someone for an individual Honours

Whilst the above is about QAVS do not forget that ANYONE may nominate someone for an Honour; BEM, OBE, MBE and upwards.

The Government's website is: www.gov.uk/honours

Drawing from this people get honours for achievements like:

- making a difference to their community or field of work
- enhancing Britain's reputation
- long-term voluntary service
- innovation and entrepreneurship
- changing things, with an emphasis on achievement
- improving life for people less able to help themselves
- displaying moral courage

I would have thought across the Civic movement there would be some good candidates.

The difficult bit is that the process has to be secret from the individual being nominated. Guidance on how to write a nomination is at:

<https://bit.ly/2QIA2du>

Helen Kidman

ROVING REPORTER IN THE DALES NATIONAL PARK

For various reasons since my mid-twenties, I've lived a pretty peripatetic life.

In some ways this was good, as I got to live in several counties and therefore expanded my geographical and social and economic historical knowledge of our wonderful country. There was never a dull moment in utilising spare time, as I was also able to indulge my love for walking in many different areas.

The downside of course, is that one never stays long enough to put down roots. Then there was a period a few years ago, where I was *in situ* for longer than usual in Lancashire and joined my local Civic Society. Then somehow I got involved at Regional and National level. The avenues to all manner of interesting subjects opened up. Enthralling! Exhilarating! Frustrating! Very time consuming! I loved it but another house move beckoned and off I went to Cumbria.

My dream has always been to retire to Yorkshire. I have loved it for years. I was lucky enough to have a stint working in Harrogate and living in



Wetherby. And I've made it! I'm officially an offcumden!!! My intention is never to leave.

Yorkshire is big. It has a wonderful and dramatic coastline steeped in fishing history. It's agriculturally diverse. It has wonderful countryside and big skies. It has great meandering old rivers in the most beautiful of Dales. Grand Victorian cities which were the powerhouses of Europe. It has industrial history stamped all over it. Railways, canals. Cathedral cities and small villages. The Dales National Park. The North Yorkshire Moors National Park. The list goes on.

Ours is indeed, God's Own Country. No wonder we are proud of it. No wonder we love it and want to preserve the best of it for future generations!

I'm here in Threshfield (across the River Wharfe from Grassington) in the incredible Yorkshire Dales. 9 miles south is the market town of Skipton. 14 miles south-east is Addingham. Another 4 miles and I'm in Ilkley. Harrogate is a 40-minute drive and then a tiddly bit more over to York. No towns and cities on the doorstep. But I do have villages. Lots of them. Some fantastic ones are in neighbouring Nidderdale. Too small for a civic society (although looking at Spen Valley, perhaps I'll have to eat my flat cap!)... Upper Wharfedale Civic Society? Who knows..... But we do have a wealth in our Dale of history and industrial heritage. Railways, mining, quarrying, agriculture.

One of our newly formed groups - UWALS (Upper Wharfedale Arts & Literature Society) - last year put together an exhibition for WW1 on the people and the times around 1918. Those of us who participated, chose a specific subject and the result was a stormingly successful exhibition held over a couple of days one weekend at Grassington Town Hall.

....“Presenting the Past”.....The focus is a collection of old local photographs.....

Cunningly held in the summer, we got a lot of passing holiday trade (lots of furriners and I don't mean just them as from outside of the county).

This has inspired the organisers, Eileen and Geraldine (also offcumdens), to apply for and successfully obtain, a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for their next project “*Presenting the Past*”.

The focus is a collection of old local photographs (The Inman Roberts archive) which have been generously loaned. The next exhibition will be in April/May 2020, with a range of activities for the local community to be involved with. The topics will include photography, music, art, local history, oral history, film and creative writing. My training day for the oral history workshop is on the 2nd March. Can't wait! New skills, new people to work with and a host of possible folk to interview. Should be a worthwhile challenge!

After the exhibition, the output will be preserved digitally and made easily accessible. Partnerships with other digital archive groups who wish to have copies of the work have already been formed.

If you're interested in their website, it's www.uwals.co.uk

Judith Blackburn



ADDINGHAM'S UPLIFTING STORY

A couple of years ago we decided we must do something meaningful and lasting to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

We had built up a pot of money, from WW1 events, raffles, book sales, donations and the like. Whilst conducting extensive research into the Great War and its impact on our Village, one of our members discovered that there were the names of 17 Addingham servicemen missing from the WW1 roll of honour on our Village War Memorial. We needed to put that right and with 2018 being the 100-year anniversary of the end of the war we thought it very poignant to record the names of these men alongside their fallen comrades.

We commissioned a special bronze plaque listing the 17 names, to be installed alongside the existing plaque of names. We were careful to ensure that the new plaque would 'complement' the existing one.

As you can see from the photo (*left*) it's a bit special.....

We then had to set about planning an unveiling event and firstly we put out a call for family members of the 17 Servicemen to come forward and take part in our special event. Unfortunately, we didn't hear anything. Not to be put off, we secured the services of a local WW2 veteran Stan Hall who is 99 years old to do the honours and unveil the plaque and what a great job he did.



Above (*centre*) is a super photo of Stan after the unveiling. We invited all the Village youth organisations to get involved and they turned out in force. 17 of them did a short reading giving the background and details of each Servicemen, this was followed up with a candlelit (17 candles) parade immediately before the ceremony. Another photo is of a section of the crowd gathered at the War Memorial (*above, left*).

The obligatory refreshments were provided afterwards....! The final photo (*right*) is of the big crowd in our Memorial Hall listening to the readings and the presentations.

What a truly wonderful and moving day and we really think we did those men proud.

Jim Robinson

Photos courtesy of Jim Robinson

SKIPTON CIVIC SOCIETY WAR MEMORIAL BOOKLET



This booklet started life as an exhibition in Holy Trinity church for the month of August 1914.

We decided to re-use the research and information in a more lasting form, and to add details about what was happening in Skipton during the war, going through the war years in the Craven Herald and trying to give a picture of what life was like at home.



From a print run of 2,000, up to one-third will be given away to local groups and schools. The rest will be sold, at £1 each, to help cover the printing costs. The Civic Society has been helped in this by donations from Skipton Mechanics' Institute and Skipton Town Council, who are responsible for the upkeep of the Memorial (*left*).

It has neither a Christian symbol nor a soldier on it. A 6-foot bronze Winged Victory alights on the top of a 6m Portland stone column, carrying bay laurel and a cornucopia. A life-size naked male figure emerges at the base, snapping the sword across his knee (ref: Isaiah 2: 4).

The designer was James Henry Sellers (1861-1954) of Rawtenstall; the sculptor was John Cassidy (1860-1939) - born in Ireland, but studied and worked in Manchester. It is the only memorial with two figures by these men.

The well-illustrated booklet is on sale at Skipton library and at the Tourist Information Centre in Coach St. or contact Skipton Civic Society - contact @skiptoncivicsociety.org

Ella Hatfield & Sheila Clark

BRAINTEASER No. 5

Find the missing letters ? in these three series?

- ? T F S N E
- E O E R E ?
- O R X ? N E



First emailed answer to damoss43@yahoo.co.uk wins a small prize



WAKEFIELD CIVIC SOCIETY
building interest in Wakefield

ARE CIVIC SOCIETIES 'CULTURAL' ORGANISATIONS?

When was the last time you participated in a 'cultural' activity? My guess is that, as a member of a civic society, you are more likely than not to have done something that might be regarded as cultural – after all, civic society members are sophisticated, discerning, erudite individuals, aren't we?

Draw up a list of all the 'cultural' activities you've taken part in recently. What's on that list? Trips to the theatre and cinema, perhaps? Surely you have visits to art galleries and museums, yes? Maybe you've been to a lecture or a concert, perhaps an exhibition? All these things comfortably fit into our shared understanding of 'cultural' activities. But are there any civic society activities on your list? Did you recognise that attending a civic society talk, a blue plaque unveiling, or a guided walk might also be thought of as doing something cultural?

The reason I'm asking these questions arises from discussions I have been having in Wakefield recently about the role culture can play in creating jobs and opportunities and thereby helping to support or even trigger economic regeneration. As I am sure readers will know, Wakefield is now home to The Hepworth Wakefield, a modern gallery that opened in May 2011. It has proved popular with many, but not all, local residents and has been a big draw for visitors to the city.

...in a recent survey.... some 41% of local residents surveyed said that they 'never take part in art/culture'.

Across the Wakefield district, we also have museums (including the National Coal Mining Museum for England), cinemas, theatres, castles and art galleries, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, and Nostell Priory. So there's a lot going on yet, surprisingly, in a recent survey conducted by an independent research company for Wakefield Council, some 41% of local residents surveyed said that they 'never take part in art/culture'.

I personally find this statistic astonishing but it did get me thinking. What was the definition of culture used in the survey, I wondered? And did respondents' own perceptions of what counts as culture affect the way in which they answered the question? What were the barriers to entry that put people off taking part in cultural pursuits?

Now, for what it's worth, my view is that the definition of cultural pursuits should include things such as reading, doing family history research, taking part in guided walks and so on. I'd even include watching some television programmes such as documentaries, plays and so on (but we could have an interesting discussion just around that, I'm sure!).

There's a Facebook page called the Wakefield Historical Appreciation Society which has over 13,000 members: that's 13,000 people who share an interest in Wakefield's architectural and social history. There's a lively Historical Society in Wakefield (and others elsewhere in the district), six civic societies across the district and no doubt dozens of community and church groups, Rotary Clubs, WI associations and so on. There's a burgeoning art scene in Wakefield, including performing arts, and at least one concert society; even the Yorkshire

Philharmonic Choir is based in Wakefield! I'm sure there are many other societies, organisations and individuals contributing to the cultural mix that I've overlooked or am not even aware of.

All this cultural activity is made possible by people who work in the arts – whether they be the creative artists and performers or the management and enablers, the support staff both 'front of house' and behind the scenes. Also important in enabling cultural activities are the people who commission performers, writers, artists and so on and, of course, the people who provide the funding, either through grants and paid commissions or through audience participation and the purchase of tickets.

So, why is this relevant to us?

Well, I often find that when I talk to people about what's happening culturally in the city, the work of the civic society doesn't usually get a mention and I have to keep asserting that we are a 'cultural organisation!'. OK, we're not a big player, we don't have the money, but we are a frequent and reliable provider of talks and walks, occasional film screenings and blue plaque unveilings.

....If we start seeing ourselves as part of the cultural offer of the place where we live, it might just open up opportunities to work with others, to establish new partnerships and maybe even open up new sources of funding.

We've written booklets and even occasionally commissioned creative work from others. But have a look at our constitution and you'll find no mention of culture! There's mention of architecture, design and town planning, but nothing specifically about culture. Perhaps this is one reason we don't actually market ourselves as a cultural organisation – and if we don't think of ourselves as a cultural organisation then it's not surprising that others don't either.

I think it's time for us to think hard about how civic societies position themselves. I appreciate that some smaller societies won't have the resources or capacity to organise the events and activities that we are able to put on in Wakefield, but many societies will and some may even do more. If we start seeing ourselves as part of the cultural offer of the place where we live, it might just open up opportunities to work with others, to establish new partnerships and maybe even open up new sources of funding. If nothing else, it might bring in more people to our events if we shift our traditional mindset of how we market the things we do.

Let's bring a bit of show-business pizzazz to our programming; let's turn down the house lights, raise the curtain and put on a show!

**Kevin Trickett, MBE
President, Wakefield Civic Society**

PETER SPAWFORTH TROPHY 2018 WINNERS



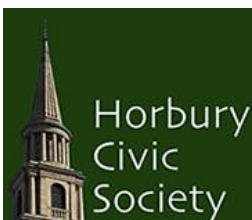
**Winner and
1st Prize**
Ripon Civic Society



2nd Prize
**Addingham Civic
Society**



3rd Prize
Whitby Civic Society



Commendation
Horbury Civic Society
Certificate collected here by
Kevin Trickett



The awards were made at the YHACS AGM held in Harrogate's Old Swan Hotel

Photos courtesy of Kevin Trickett

REGULATION ALERT!

Now that members have got to grips with GDPR and no doubt have the relevant processes in place.....it's probably time to remind you about the Code of Fundraising Practice ("CFP")

(<http://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-07/FPS-leaflet-charities-guide.pdf>).

CFP pre-dates the current GDPR, having been launched in July 2017 by the Fundraising Preference Service. The Fundraising Preference Service (<http://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/complaints/fundraising-preference-service>) is the self-regulatory agency for the fundraising sector which had itself been created a year earlier in response to a well-publicised case involving an elderly lady who, according to the Press, was hounded to her death by constant demands from charitable organisations to which she felt duty-bound to respond.

CFP is similar to the Telephone Preference Service and enables members of the public to opt out of receiving communications from registered charities. Despite last year's Data Protection legislation (which gives statutory force to opt-outs) CFP is still in place.

You may still therefore receive a request from the Fundraising Regulator if a member of the public has asked it to stop your communications to him or her. Failure to comply can lead ultimately to a referral to and sanctions by the Information Commissioner's Office, the same place where GDPR is managed.

Richard Ward
YHACS Treasurer



BRAINTEASER NO. 4 SOLUTION

What do these phrases, when correctly ordered, suggest?

Henry The Eighth's last one?	= h	⇒	h s y C a
5th of August?	= s		
End of January?	= y		
Start of Christmas?	= C		
Middle of Spain?	= a		

↓
YHACS

What's the missing number? Answer =18

73, 52, 42, 34, 22, ??, 10 $73 - (7 \times 3) = 52$; $52 - (5 \times 2) = 42$; etc...

Winner was Richard Ward, Scarborough Civic Society

Brainteaser No.5 is on page





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 2019

Volume 15, Issue 1

Sat 23rd March	YHACS Spring Meeting in Sheffield
Sat 22nd June	National Civic Day
Sat 27th July	YHACS Summer Meeting in Selby
13th- 22nd September	Heritage Open Days
Sat 26th October	YHACS Autumn meeting in Pontefract

NEXT YHACS MEETING

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 10.15-12.00 & 1:00-4:00 PM

MEMBERS MEETING

AT

THE CIRCLE, 33 ROCKINGHAM LANE, SHEFFIELD S1 4FW

GUEST SPEAKERS:

SARAH JAMES, CIVIC VOICE

IAN HARVEY, DIRECTOR, CIVIC VOICE

RACHEL WALKER, PROJECT MANAGER, DON CATCHMENT RIVERS TRUST

CONTACT: KEVIN TRICKETT ON 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
- **Exec Committee Member**, Alison Drake
- **President**, Peter Cooper (*Website; Towns, Cities & Public Realm*)