



CLIMATE CHANGE : A TO-DO LIST

INSIDE PAGES.....

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

Climate Emergency Thoughts.....6-7

Jo Cox Community Wood.....8-9

Report from the Dales.....9-12

New Year Message from Civic Voice.....12-13

Filey's Lady Madge Plaque.....14

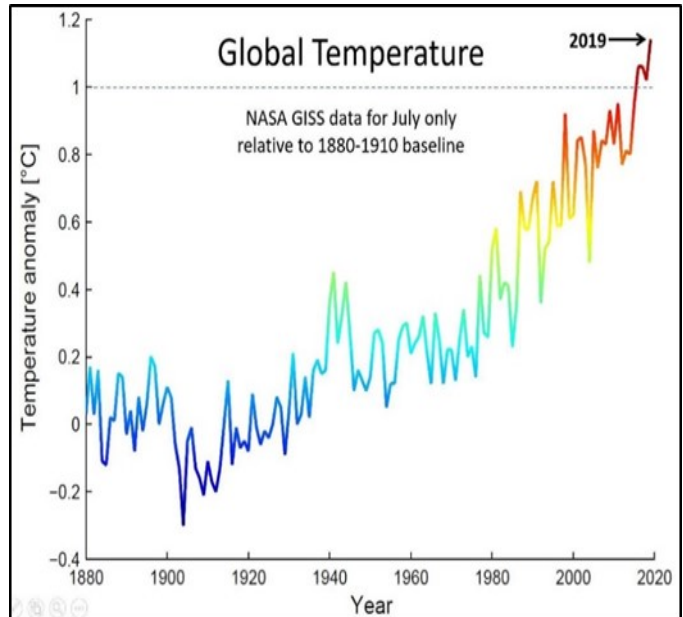
Wakefield's new environmental award....15

Next YHACS Meeting.....16

Future Events.....16

Background

There have always been floods, droughts and wildfires but there now seems little doubt that these extreme events are becoming more frequent and more severe than in the past. And there is absolutely no doubt that glaciers throughout the world are melting and that sea-level is rising. The global mean temperature for July 2019 was the highest on record (see graph).



We also know that this increase in global temperature is due to human activity, principally by increasing the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas and as carbon dioxide concentration rises, so global temperature increases. Today (October 2019) the carbon dioxide concentration of the atmosphere is 412 parts per million (ppm) and rising.

The effects of climate change are already serious. Once the concentration exceeds 450 ppm and temperature increases much beyond 1.5 degrees C (compared to the late 19th century baseline) the situation is likely to become dangerous.

The urgency of the issue has been recognised internationally. The UN 2015 Paris Agreement on emission reduction was signed by all countries and in May 2019 the UK Government declared a "climate emergency" setting a target to reach net zero emissions before 2050. Many UK local authorities have gone further aiming to reach net zero by 2030. These ambitious targets are achievable but only if governments and local communities act swiftly and work together. What can individuals in YHACS do? What can YHACS do as an organisation?



Individuals

The starting point for anyone planning to reduce their carbon footprint is to measure it using an online calculator. In Addingham we recommend using the WWF website: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk>. It is simple and easy to use and identifies the most important measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Small things like not over-filling the kettle are important but the situation is so urgent that bigger life-style changing measures are now needed, including for example:

- Insulating homes even more – roofs, windows and outside walls;
- Installing solar panels on roofs, including west and east facing slopes;
- Adding a battery to store solar energy and using it through the night;
- Switching to a green tariff energy supplier with a cheap off-peak component;
- Buying a hydrogen-ready central heating boiler;
- Replacing light bulbs with LEDs now, not waiting until existing ones perish;
- Buying an electric car and charging it overnight off peak using a green tariff;
- Flying (much) less...avoiding long hauls especially....taking the train and bus where possible, walking and cycling more;
- Eating less meat, especially beef and lamb. Cows and sheep, as ruminants, generate copious amounts of methane, a strong greenhouse gas;
- Buying less, wasting less, recycling more...
- Planting (native) trees.

YHACS ... main role in this regard almost certainly should be to encourage member organisations to take up the challenge.

Some of these measures need upfront capital expenditure but all are cost-effective and many are cost-saving from the outset. Crucially all are healthy for the planet!

The role of YHACS?

YHACS itself as an organisation has its own carbon footprint, albeit probably quite a small one. Perhaps, it would be useful for YHACS to carry out its own environmental audit to identify measures that could be taken to reduce its emissions, but its **main role** in this regard almost certainly should be to encourage member organisations to take up the challenge. Ideally this would not only include advice on how to reduce carbon emissions but also how to help local communities move towards more sustainable life-styles with respect to wildlife, water and waste as well as carbon.

Member Civic Societies are uniquely placed to ensure that sustainability principles are embedded in their communities by:

- Lobbying local councils and incorporating environmental protection measures into Neighbourhood Plans;
- Inspecting rigorously the design of new developments and objecting to housing developments that don't conform to the highest standards for energy efficiency, surface water management and wildlife protection;
- Supporting other organisations in their communities with similar goals who are already committed to these principles e.g. Otley 2030, Zero

Carbon Harrogate, Leeds Climate Commission;

- Using its links to Civic Voice to lobby national organisations and parliamentarians to hold the Government to account on its environment policies.

Useful websites

Climate Change Committee (<https://www.theccc.org.uk/>)

The Carbon Trust (<https://www.carbontrust.com/home/>)

Buildings Research Establishment

(https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Code_for_Sustainable_Homes)

Office for Low Emission Vehicles

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-low-emission-vehicles>)

Here in Addingham we certainly don't have all the answers but we like to think we are making a difference....the message has to be **'think globally but act locally'**.

In the Summer we are delighted to be hosting the YHACS quarterly meeting and yes you've guessed, it will have a 'Green Theme'. So, if you haven't already got the dates in your diary then do so now : **Friday 24th and Saturday 25th of July**. And if



you haven't been to Addingham before then you are in for a treat ! Kevin will be in touch much nearer the time with all the usual details. Should be good.

Rick Battarbee
Emeritus Professor
Environmental
Change University
College London.

Addingham Civic Society

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

We're all eco-warriors now, aren't we?

At the end of 2019, the YHACS committee met and discussed our strategy for the coming year. We agreed that we should focus on environmental issues and make this our main theme for 2020. Hence, this issue of the YHACS newsletter and our coming AGM in Harrogate are majoring on climate change and the environment. We urge our member societies, and, indeed the members of our member societies, to start thinking about what we can all do, both as civic societies and individuals, to combat global warming, to reduce waste and pollution and to lower our carbon footprint.

You can start by doing the [WWF footprint survey](#) mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. I've just done mine: it's a bit rough and ready, but it turns out that my carbon footprint is 78% of what the UK government target is for individuals. That's rather satisfying (in fact, it made me feel rather smug!) but I



could do even more. How do I achieve such a result? Well, my main energy usage at home is electricity and I have solar panels fitted to the house. This helps keep my bills to a reasonable level. The house is reasonably well insulated and, yes, I have low energy light fittings. Being a typical Yorkshireman, I also believe in putting on a jumper when it gets cold rather than switching the heating on (or turning it up a notch). I gave up flying years ago. (Not that I ever did very much to start with: I was a late developer when it comes to flying and didn't take a commercial flight until I was in my 30s. Prior to that, if I went to Europe, I went by ferry.) I have a car – a diesel, I'm afraid, but it is cleaner than the last car I had, and I use it less and less (an annual mileage of around 3-4,000 miles) and I walk a lot. Oh, and I've been a vegetarian for over 30 years (don't I look well on it?!). My one weakness? Occasional cruise holidays – but we can't all be perfect!

...We can't expect others to change unless we are prepared to both lead by example and to explore alternative ways of living that are better for our own health and the health of the planet...

In all seriousness, though, both as individuals and as representatives of our various civic societies, we can probably all do more. We wouldn't be involved in the civic movement if we didn't care about the places where we live, work and, yes, play. Making these places better is more than ever not just about the design and layout of buildings but also what we do with the spaces in between – landscaping, planting and the layout of public areas – and how we use them. We need to be thinking about how to improve walkability, reduce car dependency, promote use of public transport and so on. And we also need to be thinking about how we can lower energy consumption and our use of raw materials – reuse and recycle where we can and where it makes sense to do so.

This isn't always going to be either easy, comfortable or convenient for us as individuals to do this. And when you see reports that China alone burns around half of the coal that is burned in the world, you may even wonder if it's worth the sacrifices. But when it comes to 'saving the planet', I don't think we can afford to shrug our shoulders. We can't just turn our back on the problem and walk (or drive away). We can't expect others to change unless we are prepared to both lead by example and to explore alternative ways of living that are better for our own health and the health of the planet.

Civic societies should be taking a leading role here. By campaigning for building projects to be sustainable, and for new buildings to be energy efficient. But there are other issues that we could also be considering – proximity of new housing developments to transport hubs, for example: perhaps we should be making more of a fuss when we see developments coming forward that lock in car dependency?

Some of the changes that need to be made are being made for us. More and more councils are at least talking about banning cars from town and city centres or charging motorists who drive there. The government has decreed that new housing should not be heated by gas and the next step will be for all houses to replace their gas boilers and heating systems with some other form of heating. Sometimes it takes legislation to make change happen – think of what happened to plastic carrier bags, but sometimes, once the writing is on the wall, manufacturers, not wishing to be left with unsaleable stock, will start

to ring the changes themselves. Although the UK government has said that no new cars should be sold that run on petrol or diesel by 2040, in fact, it looks as if such vehicles will disappear from showrooms long before that. Those who persist in driving petrol and diesel vehicles are likely to find fewer and fewer places to fill up and the cost of filling the tank will rise – and we all tend to be cost conscious. Electric cars are still more expensive than their petrol and diesel counterparts but the cost of operating them (charging and servicing) should be much cheaper in the long run. Maybe it is that mix of legislative mandate and economic benefits that will persuade people not yet motivated to make the changes necessary to their lifestyles for us to make a real cumulative impact on the health of the planet?

Nobody forced me to become a vegetarian, but being one is a *lot* cheaper than being a meat eater!

Our 20th Anniversary Lunch

Many thanks to everyone who joined us for the 20th Anniversary Lunch at the Principal Hotel in York in November, co-hosted with us by York Civic Trust. In the end, 67 of us sat down to enjoy what turned out to be a rather splendid occasion. Honorary guests included the Lord Mayor of York and her Consort, Ian Harvey, Director of Civic Voice and Neil Redfern from Historic England. The Lord Mayor made a short address before the meal and our guest speaker, Sarah McLeod from the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust informed and entertained after the meal as she told us about the work being done to bring the house back to life – and the considerable challenges that involves. Having brought the lunch to a close, one of my fellow YHACS committee members pointed out that we now have less than four years to go before we'll be planning our quarter-century celebrations. Any why not? When you have something that works as well as YHACS does, it's worth celebrating!



Richard Ward Legacy

Among the many guests at our 20th Anniversary Lunch, it was particularly nice to be able to welcome Pam Ward, Richard's widow. At the end of the meal, after many of the guests had departed, Pam presented YHACS with a cheque for £2,000, a donation in Richard's memory and something that he had asked Pam to arrange. It was a most moving gesture.

The YHACS committee are now discussing how to put this donation to good use. While it would be possible just to add it to our general fund, the committee want to explore doing something that could be associated with Richard's memory for years to come.

The YHACS AGM

As I write this, we're just a few days away from the YHACS AGM in Harrogate. I hope you will be able to join us. We'll be looking back at what we achieved in 2019 while also looking ahead to our programme for the coming year. Delivering that programme will fall to the YHACS committee, of course. And that's where you come in! Can you help us? Would you be willing to join the committee this year? We're not asking you to make a big commitment, but it is important that we keep refreshing the committee membership. New faces bring new ideas. Give it some thought and take the pledge. You know you want to!

Kevin Trickett MBE
Chair

BEAVERS, CRUISES AND DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

** I've always said that we'll print almost anything - provided it isn't pornographic or libellous!!*
- Editor

In the summer "Society Insight" I wrote about fighting climate change by planting trees (despite the editor* telling us that the theme was Transport).

Our local authority has since informed me that there are plans to plant 50,000 trees in Scarborough Borough. As the theme for this edition is 'The environment and climate change' maybe I can have another go with a personal view.

The trouble is that this climate change business is turning out to be rather complicated; there seem to be more threats to our planet than expected and facts and figures are coming at us faster than we can deal with them. For example, today the answer seems to be beavers.



A five-year trial on the River Otter in Devon, where beavers have been reintroduced after being hunted to extinction 400 years ago, has already helped to restore wetlands, reduce flood risk and reverse a decline in wetland wildlife. A pair of Eurasian beavers has also been introduced to Cropton Forest north of Pickering as specialist ecosystem engineers to assist with the 'Slowing the Flow' flood prevention project. They seem to be doing well and have already produced a kit.

But what if you are a climate change sceptic? Former Top Gear presenter James May has an answer to this one. In a recent article he pointed out that the things climate activists like Greta Thunberg are campaigning for – cleaner air, better eating, saving the rainforests – are what we should want anyway.

So, despite a career in highway engineering, I'd like to sign up to the green agenda.

And yet...what about cruises?

In 2017 I embarked on my first cruise and really enjoyed the experience. 17.8 million people went on a cruise in 2009, next year that will be 32 million with nineteen new ships added to the cruise fleet. Each passenger has a carbon footprint 3 times what it would be on land.



Many ports are becoming

unhappy about the pollution emitted by the ships, many of which burn toxic, heavy fuel oil, one of the dirtiest fuels. Ships docking in Barcelona emitted 5 times more sulphur dioxides than the city's 560,000 cars and Carnival Corporation, owner of brands that include Cunard and P&O, agreed to pay a \$20M fine after its Princess Cruises line released rubbish such as food waste and plastic, into the ocean.. And yet... cruise ships only make up a small proportion of the world's maritime fleet.

And what about cars?

I regularly drive into York, but private cars are to be banned from within York's city walls by 2023 under plans approved by councillors in order to improve air quality and cut congestion. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, where I stayed on my last trip to London, and one of the richest areas in the country, also suffers from some of the highest levels of pollution.



So, has your council declared a climate emergency?

The latest figures I can find are that by October 2019 at least fifteen Yorkshire councils have done this. Not on the list were **Rotherham, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Selby, the East Riding, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire**. Friends of the Earth have calculated the performance of local authority areas in England and Wales regarding climate change. In Yorkshire the best performers are Wakefield, Doncaster and Kingston upon Hull, the worst, Craven and Richmondshire.

After looking at all this I thought I should calculate my own carbon footprint as advocated by Addingham Civic Society in the July Society Insight (you can do yours at <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>). Mine came out at 10.5 tonnes which is 100% of the 2020 target value. But looking at the above I think I'm going to have to modify my behaviour, although I draw the line at getting a beaver.

The Chief Executive of the North York Moors National Park says, *'Maybe we all should simply be old fashioned and do less and enjoy the simple things more'*.

Of course, the question has got to be - what's the move for civic societies?

Our age profile means that most of us will not see the outcome of this debate, but we owe it to the younger generations to make a start. We need to make sure we have the facts to hand, act on those facts and encourage others to do so. We can provide leadership and make sure our concern for our planet informs everything we do.

Peter Cooper
Scarborough & District Civic Society



Spenn
Valley
Civic
Society

AN ECO NATIVITY: A NEW WOOD IS BORN IN SPENN VALLEY

After months of work on legalities of a lease and submitting funding bids, Spenn Valley Civic Society was able to begin its biggest project ever in spring 2019: the creation of the Jo Cox Community Wood.

Between Heckmondwike and Cleckheaton, the 3.7 acre site is in the constituency of the young, dedicated and hard-working MP who was murdered by a right-wing extremist in 2016. Funding is from Biffa Award, Kirklees Council, DEFRA and individual donations from members of the public.



Volunteers at work planting trees



Volunteers will plant native trees here throughout January and February.



Newly-planted Appleyard's Orchard at the Jo Cox Community Wood

The hot summer saw volunteers undertaking hard landscaping to create disability-friendly kissing gates and paths. Boundary fencing was replaced and a drystone wall reconstructed. Picnic tables and benches made from recycled plastic were installed. Sadly, in July the Society lost its member John Appleyard to pancreatic cancer. Civic Society Treasurer Colin Berry explained: "We promised John we'd plant an apple tree for him, but the generosity of people's donations at his funeral meant we had enough money to buy 11 trees". In November 2019 Scouts joined local residents, members of the Jo Cox Foundation, Sustrans volunteers and people from as far afield as Huddersfield, Wakefield and East Yorkshire to plant the first 150 trees, including the fruit trees, forming Appleyard's Community Orchard at one end of the Jo Cox Wood. The Society hopes that in years to come, local people will be able to pick apples and pears thanks to John.

On the same day, Jo Cox's family planted an oak tree for Jo. This has inspired the Civic Society to offer a "Trees for Life" scheme from now until the end of

February 2020. In return for a donation of £50, Spen Valley Civic Society will buy, plant, stake and maintain a half standard native tree, and will give the donor a certificate showing where the tree is planted. Chairman Max Rathmell said: *“This is a great way to mark a birth, marriage, birthday or anniversary, or to celebrate someone’s life. It’s an eco-friendly present that’ll benefit wildlife, improve air quality in Spen Valley and be a positive symbol of a person’s life and achievements”.*

The Society is spending January and February planting another 700 trees across the site.

Information boards are being made at a specialist manufacturer near Rotherham and will be installed in the spring, with an official opening taking place in March.

Erica Amende

Photos courtesy of Erica Amende

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL OF FORMER LINTON SCHOOL CAMP SITE, LINTON

Application number C/50/46L

View at <https://bit.ly/39Zs7Zi>

Proposal: Full planning permission for demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site for tourist accommodation

Date Received 26/11/18; Consultation End 07/02/2019; Decision - Not yet decided

When we moved here just over two years ago, we were fascinated by some ruins we could see on a walk around our neighbouring village of Linton. Keen to find out more, I googled and found out that it was the remains of Linton Camp.

I found this blog on the Yorkshire Dales National Park website by Hannah Kingsbury, the Historic Environment Apprentice at the YDNPA, posted in August 2017. *“A residential camp near the village of Linton survives virtually intact. The buildings were constructed out of timber frames with horizontal timber cladding, beneath overhanging cedar shingle roofs. A number of them have brick chimney stacks. The frames and floor joists rest on brick and concrete piers. However, the remaining buildings are in varying condition, and the site is rapidly deteriorating. A fair amount of*



the cladding has been damaged or removed, most glass is missing from the windows, and the cedar shingle roofs are in poor condition with a lot of the shingles missing or rotting. The site includes many buildings and features. There are a number of single-storey classrooms/dormitories that remain, as well as a larger building that would have been a canteen and is now greatly deteriorated. There was an outdoor swimming pool, which has since been filled with rubble. An in-filled air raid shelter can be seen as an earthwork and the entrance by the survival of the top of the stairs that would have led down into the shelter. (It is possible that remains of the air raid shelter would remain in situ.) Originally, there would also have been shower blocks, a greenhouse, a headmaster’s house, a central boiler house, and a water tower. A former playing field occupies the eastern part of the site.

Linton Camp is one of a series of Camp Schools built by the National Camps Corporation

in 1939 to house evacuees. In this case to house evacuees from Bradford and Leeds, originally whose fathers were away in the forces and whose mothers were often doing shift work in the mills or munitions factories. The National Camps Corporation constructed around 31 camps in rural locations around England to house evacuees from nearby cities. The architect T. S. Tait was responsible for the design of the buildings. The schools were constructed of timber chalet buildings of a standard design, chosen for its economy and camouflage capabilities. Some of these camps have been demolished, some have been repurposed into things such as caravan sites and outdoor learning centres, and some have fallen into disrepair (like Linton).

Following the war, the camp was used to provide residential education in a healthy environment for inner city children by the National Camps Corporation. The camp would therefore have played a significant role in introducing inner city children to the landscape of the Yorkshire Dales. In 1946 the National Camps Corporation was wound down. However, the camp was purchased in 1957 by Bradford Metropolitan Council and continued as a residential school until its closure in May 1986. It was then periodically used as a summer camp for scout groups. It has been unused for many years now.

The land to the south of the site contains archaeological remains of a medieval settlement. The settlement likely contained several buildings, possibly including one long house, as well as around 20 small folds and paddocks, and a medieval quarry. The settlement and the remains of medieval field systems are visible as earthworks. This is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. [Historic Environment Record: MYD57541 and MYD36675]"

Apparently, there have been several planning applications over the years, but all have been turned down. The entrance is on a very small and narrow, often single track, B road between Threshfield and Burnsall but is subject to the NSL.



Linton is an old village with a green, set among an old Vanbrugh alms house, a pub and three stone bridges over its beck. Not far to its north east, Linton Beck runs down to the River Wharfe at the limestone Linton Falls, where there is a footbridge over the falls for walkers on a path up the Wharfe's north bank to Grassington.

The new Application by the Linton Regeneration Company Ltd, set up by Matthew Riley, is for a proposed tourist development which will consist of 61 hotel and lodge style blocks, a spa and pool plus an underground car park.

The Lancashire Telegraph reported in late January this year, that an estimated £27.5 million could be spent on the luxury hotel and spa which would stretch over 6,850 sq. metres, by Mr Riley, who lives in Lancashire and is chief executive of an IT and communications company based in Nelson.

An agent for the applicants said *"The development has been designed to sit as quietly into the landscape as possible with grass roofs and underground parking"*.

Linton local Parish Council has strongly objected as have other concerned parties. With some help from Kevin and Helen, I penned my own response! Please see my comments regarding this application, with reference to the National Planning Policy Framework (revised February 2019).

Achieving sustainable development

The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. I am not convinced that this application satisfies any

of the three criteria of social, economic or environmental objectives. Rather, this appears to be an entrepreneurial attempt to impose its wishes on the community, disregarding the needs/wishes/sensibilities of the communities and environment. An additional problem in terms of sustainability is the impact on local traffic networks. The cumulative impact of this development in the area does not appear to have been properly assessed.

Promoting sustainable transport

The application does not appear to have detailed very much in the Design and Access Statement. It would appear that this hotel and spa, which is to cater for the needs of the "higher socio groups" who will be walking everywhere (????), doesn't really take into account the lack of road infrastructure here. The visitors to the spa still have to get here - and out - by road. So will the staff. So will the delivery vehicles. So will any vehicle which needs to access the site. That isn't even taking account of what vehicles would be involved in the initial build. Or the duration of it.

The B6252 is the "main" road through to Threshfield and Grassington from Skipton. It is already heavily used by quarry vehicles and local agricultural and normal traffic. In addition is the influx of vehicles brought here on day trips and holidays. Not to mention the cyclists, often in clubs, who help to slow down the motorised vehicles on what is a B road, quite narrow in parts, with several blind corners. The road is full of hazards and speeding is another issue which has caused Police monitoring. We hope that this will result in traffic calming or a further speed restriction to 20 mph. The fact that there are also several local schools in this small area merely exacerbates the concerns we all have regarding traffic. The approval of this hotel/spa can only increase an already fraught situation.

The B6160 which is used to access Linton is yet another small and narrow road. The application states that all of these visitors will walk everywhere or take advantage of the electric vehicles which will be provided to "bus" them into Grassington. One would have thought that they would be able to walk this small distance on the public pathways, but.... If they've come on holiday to explore this beautiful area which is full of attractions, they would do what the majority of our visitors do and use their vehicles. We have no rail travel and a minimal bus service to facilitate travel. I would suggest that development should be refused on highways grounds as there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety and the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.

Achieving well-designed places

Paragraphs 124 and 125 are quite clear in what is needed and it would appear that effective engagement between the applicant and the communities involved here, has not happened.

I seriously question whether the design submitted by this application is sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, or that it will establish or maintain a strong sense of place.

It would not appear that there has been any consultation process with the communities who will be expected to live with this application. For such a development, one might reasonably have expected the parish councils at least, to have been approached by the developer to discuss the proposal. As far as I am aware, if it weren't for the publication of the Craven Herald, a Skipton weekly publication, we may not have known of it. The level of community consultation

appears to have fallen short of what is required.

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

Paragraphs 170 to 183 refer. I would challenge whether this application satisfies any of these requirements or contributes in any way.

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

Would this new development make a positive contribution to the local character and distinctiveness of the Dales National Park? Would it contribute to the historic environment and character of this place? Paragraph 200 states that Local Planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting, that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance), should be treated favourably. Does this proposed application satisfy that requirement?

Conclusion

The Planning and Development page of the YDNP, states that *“Planning is vital to ensure new developments are well designed and carefully sited. They need to contribute to the quality of the natural environment and built heritage”*.

The Planning Policy states that *“The purpose of planning policy is to ensure that development needs are provided for, but only if they happen in the right place, at the right time and in the right way.”*

I do not believe that the proposed application can satisfy requirements of the Planning Policies of the Yorkshire Dales National Park nor the National Planning Policy Framework (Revised February 2019). The last time I checked with the Planning Officer on 5th December, I was informed that there had been no formal changes to the application, but it was understood that the applicant is seeking to discuss the scheme with the Linton Parish Council soon.

Judith Blackburn
The Dales Roving Reporter



A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM CIVIC VOICE'S CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

At the start of a new year, a new decade, and the start of Civic Voice's 10th anniversary, I wanted to share a few thoughts on areas of work that Civic Voice will be focusing on in 2020. I would be pleased to hear your thoughts on these via info@civicvoice.org.uk.

We will be the national lead and voice for the civic movement and will campaign on our manifesto commitments

The civic movement is made up of 252 groups, embedded in communities across England. Whether campaigning on conservation areas, or championing the high street, we are proud to lead such a positive movement. By having a long term interest in a place and being rooted in a community, civic societies can tap into key local issues and know what people need and want.

But for many communities, they feel as though the decisions impacting their own local area, are made by national politicians and property developers. People



who do not live local. We plan to change this. We want to enhance the rights that communities have in the planning system and will be campaigning for formal right for civic societies to have a voice at every stage of the planning system. To make this work, civic societies must lead the way in being an inclusive, independent and an inspirational voice for the future of our towns.

We will be asking whether we can put civic societies at the heart of communities and in doing so, rebuild public trust and confidence in the planning system

Public trust can be restored in the planning system, but only if people have meaningful, practical and genuine ways to influence decisions in their local area. We need to increase the public's influence over "their place" and open the floor to many more voices. We believe the civic movement is a vehicle that can enable this to happen.

The civic movement is based on a very simple idea that people can join a local network of like-minded citizens who come together to deliberate and discuss local issues and then work collaboratively to design solutions. This is all done in a non-party political way.

We want to build on our success in getting civic societies named on national guidance by launching a national campaign to ask 'Can civic societies play a part in rebuilding public trust in the planning system?'

We will be asking civic societies to consider how they can get absolutely everyone engaged in making a difference in their community

As a movement, you have made it clear to us that you believe that we have to broaden our reach so that we involve people from all backgrounds, recruit more volunteers and put civic societies at the heart of the local community. You have told us that you want to learn from the best. There are some places that are doing valuable, visible public engagement work. For example, Southgate and District Civic Trust had a very visible participation exercise around a large local development, and Pontefract Civic Society acts as a catalyst for public engagement, widening participation and community outreach under a strategic theme of civic pride. So much positive civic action is taking place across the country and we want to celebrate and build on this. Do share with us what you are doing.

Why do we want to do all of the above?

At Civic Voice, our vision is simple: we want to see a society, where every individual can say, I care about where I live. To make that a reality, our strategy for 2020-2023 will focus on building up the membership of the civic movement to get everyone engaged in our towns, cities and villages. We hope you will work with us to make this happen.

I hope that gives you some ideas for what we will be working on in 2020 but I would love to know what you are doing and whether we could work together more. We are always keen to collaborate! You can share your thoughts via info@civicvoice.org.uk

Kind Regards

Joan Humble
Chair of Civic Voice

THIRD BLUE PLAQUE FOR FILEY



Dame Madge was born Margaret Shafto Robertson on 15th March 1848 at Cleethorpes into a theatrical family. She was the last of 22 children of William Robertson, theatre manager and his wife Margheretta, an actress.

Her first appearance on stage was as a babe in arms and she went on to appear as a child actress, serving her apprenticeship in theatres in Bristol and Bath, including as “second singing fairy” at the age of five in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in which fellow child-actress Ellen Terry appeared as Titania. She made her London adult debut as Ophelia at the Haymarket in 1865 and enjoyed a string of successes in other Shakespearean roles and in comedies over the next four decades. She performed in many plays with William Hunter Kendal, whom she married in 1869. They became leading figures in fashionable London life as well as touring the USA and Canada with great success.

However, William’s great skills were as a theatre manager and together they enjoyed huge financial as well as dramatic success, restoring and managing the Haymarket and later the St James Theatre.



Today, Dame Madge is perhaps most famous for having befriended John Merrick, the Elephant Man in 1888. As a consequence of this episode, she eventually achieved the status of a dramatic character in Bernard Pomerance’s 1979 play and in the 1980 film where she was portrayed by Anne Bancroft. Dame Madge and her husband owned the White Lodge in Filey from 1896.

The couple eventually retired from the stage in 1908 and William Kendal died in 1917. Dame Madge left the property three years later. She became a DBE in 1926. She died in Chorleywood on 14th September 1935, aged 87 after a long illness. She was buried at the St Marylebone Cemetery in East Finchley.



Kim and James Hodgson, Adrian Perry, Mayor of Filey Jacqui Houlden-Banks and Dorothy Houlden at White Lodge

The White Lodge was built around 1856. Dame Madge bequeathed the property to an Austrian actress friend who, having no associations with the east coast, sold it and it was converted to a hotel in 1938 and became the White Lodge.

James and Kim Hodgson bought the hotel in 2015 and have overseen a complete refurbishment. They have also restored the hotel’s theatrical tradition by hosting twice yearly theatre dinners – most recently with a 1930s menu.

The two other blue plaques in Filey are for Charlotte Bronte, author of *Jane Eyre*, and Herbert Liddell Cortis, the first cyclist to achieve a speed of 20mph on a penny farthing, in 1882.

**Adrian Perry
Scarborough & District Civic Society**

WAKEFIELD CIVIC SOCIETY INTRODUCES NEW ENVIRONMENT AWARD



WAKEFIELD CIVIC SOCIETY
building interest in Wakefield

Wakefield Civic Society has been making awards for good design since 1966. Originally made every two years in two categories, the awards are now an annual event and there are five categories of award.

This year, recognising the increased public and governmental focus on climate change and the need to protect the environment, the Society is also introducing two brand new awards specifically aimed at environmental schemes.

The first of these awards, the Wakefield Civic Society Waterton Award, is named after local naturalist Charles Waterton (1782-1865) who is credited with creating the world's first-ever nature reserve when he built a wall around part of his estate at Walton Hall (on the outskirts of Wakefield) with the intention of protecting and conserving wildlife.

The award is intended to acknowledge projects that, in the spirit of Waterton's example, demonstrate innovation, imagination and good practice in nature conservation, the promotion of environmental quality and support of the wider goals of sustainable development. It is open to individuals, businesses, schools, community groups, public agencies, youth groups, local councils, landowners and statutory organisations, and any other organisation with a suitable project.

The second award, the Wakefield Civic Society Sustainable Building and Development Award, is intended to acknowledge building and development projects that demonstrate innovation, imagination and good practice in the efficient use of resources and that support the wider goals of sustainable development. It is open to built environment professionals, developers, contractors and landowners.

Nominations are now being sought and must be for schemes within the Wakefield Civic Society area that were either substantially completed or successfully introduced during 2019. Results will be announced at the Society's AGM in April.

You can find out more about the awards on the [Society's website](#).

Kevin Trickett

A LAST WORD....

A report <https://bit.ly/2slPPs0> published 15th January 2020 by NOAA and NASA confirmed that:

- 2010 to 2019 was the hottest decade since records began 140 years ago.
- 2019 was the second hottest year ever recorded. 2016 was the hottest.
- 2019 Ocean temperatures were the highest they've ever been.
- 2018, CO2 levels reached 411 parts per million at Hawaii's Mauna Loa Observatory, the highest monthly average ever recorded - it was about 360 ppm when I was a science schoolkid in the 50's

So....check out the science and the numbers, challenge the deniers, demand action and figure out ways in which you can personally make a difference.

Editor





YORKSHIRE & HUMBER
Association of Civic Societies

Reg. Charity No. 1112290

www.yhacs.org.uk

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

David Moss

Email:

Sat 25th January	YHACS AGM in Cedar Court Hotel, Harrogate
Sat 25th April	YHACS Spring Meeting in Beverley
Sat 25th July	YHACS Summer Meeting in Addingham

NEXT YHACS MEETING
SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 1:00 - 4:00 PM
AGM AND MEMBERS' MEETING
AT
HARROGATE, CEDAR COURT HOTEL

GUEST SPEAKERS
PROF RICK BATTARBEE FRS
JEMIMA PARKER, ZERO CARBON, HARROGATE
JOAN HUMBLE, CHAIR OF CIVIC VOICE
CONTACT: KEVIN TRICKETT AT [INFO@YHACS.ORG.UK](mailto:info@yhacs.org.uk)

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, Co-opted Committee Member**, Alan Goodrum
- **Exec Committee Member**, Malcolm Sharman (*Heritage & Culture*)
- **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 (*Housing*)
- **Exec Committee Member**, Phyllis Barnes
- **President**, Peter Cooper (*Website; Towns, Cities & Public Realm*)