

Yorkshire & Humber Association of Civic Societies

Registered Charity No: 1112290



www.yhacs.org.uk

Voice of the Civic Society Movement in the Region

BULLETIN 2020-03 (August)

Heritage Open Days 2020

Heritage Open Days will this year run from 11th to 20th September.

Taking account of the current Covid situation which severely limits the opportunities to deliver the usual programme of heritage-themed events, property openings and other activities, the national Heritage Open Days organisers have, for the first time, agreed to accept on-line events.

If you are registered as a Heritage Open Days organiser, you should have been receiving regular updates by email from the Heritage Open Days team about the arrangements for this year but I am writing to remind you that the deadline for registering your events and other activities is fast approaching.

You have **until midnight on Monday, 24th August** to log your events on the national website.

For more information, please visit the national [Heritage Open Days website](#).

YHACS Autumn Meeting

Following on from our recent summer meeting (our 'Addingham' meeting), we'll be holding our Autumn meeting on Saturday afternoon, 26th September from 2.30 to 4pm and once again the meeting will be held via Zoom video conferencing. This time, we will be working with Halifax Civic Trust and we hope once again to load some interesting videos about the town and the work of the Society into a Vimeo Showcase for people to watch before the meeting.

Autumn Newsletter

As you may have seen, our newsletter editor David Moss has put out a call for articles for the next edition of *Society Insight*.

The Autumn edition will be published in September ahead of the members' meeting on the 26th.

So please let David have any articles, information, news, notices or comments from your Society on issues of interest to the YHACS membership by email before the end of Friday 11th September.

The theme for this edition will continue to be "Environmental Issues" but articles and comments about the new planning proposals – "Planning For The Future" – will also be welcome.

Remember that this is your chance to let the movement know what your Society has been doing, what it is going to do and what it has achieved! Or you can just submit comments on an earlier article. As ever, we would especially love to hear from Societies that haven't recently contributed.

Please include photos to illustrate your article. Ideally, they should be at least 300kb in quality and should include the photographer's name for acknowledgement.

Please email your articles to David on damoss43@yahoo.co.uk.

Planning for the Future

As we are sure you will be aware, the government has launched a major consultation exercise on its proposals to change the planning system. This is not just a few tinkering adjustments to the existing processes but something quite revolutionary. As with all dramatic changes, the proposals are gathering what might be considered 'mixed reviews'.

Both YHACS and Civic Voice are keen to know what civic societies think about the proposals and YHACS intends to submit a response by the deadline of 29th October. We expect a good number of civic societies will want to submit their own comments.

With this in mind, we shall contact you shortly to ask for your views which the YHACS committee will then consider in formulating our response. We will share our initial findings with you at the Autumn meeting on 26th September.

New YHACS Website

Members will recall that, in an attempt to get more civic societies on-line, we negotiated a special package with Wakefield-based company Statement that allowed civic societies within YHACS to set up a low cost website or to renew their existing website if it was in need of a refresh.

Last year, Statement was taken over by another company – these things happen in commercial life – and the new owners asked Statement to move out of website provision. Those of our members who had websites provided by Statement were given the option of transferring their account to another company, Our Agency, although the new arrangement was a hosting and support package only; no changes or updates could be provided to the design or structure of any websites transferred.

YHACS itself was affected by this change. We decided recently to move to a new platform and have now set up a new site which we think has a fresh, modern feel. It still has the same domain name, <https://yhacs.org.uk/> and the site is now live. The new site uses a WordPress content management system and the site is hosted by [HostPapa](#) at a very reasonable price.

Do have a look at the new design and let us know what you think.

If you want to know more about what we did, how easy it was to change and what the costs are, please contact Kevin Trickett for details at info@yhacs.org.uk.

