



YORKSHIRE & HUMBER
Association of Civic Societies

Member of



SOCIETY INSIGHT

KEEP YOUR COMPUTER SAFE FROM HACKERS

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With Members using the internet and social media for more and more applications, and scammers and hackers seeking increasingly to access or compromise our information, it's good to have a reminder of what we should be doing to minimise risks. This article, published in Whitby Civic Society's Members' Newsletter, is a timely summary of what we all should be doing - David Moss, Editor.

In today's online space, generating, managing, and remembering hundreds of passwords for accounts and websites is getting out of hand. Password generators, password managers and security advice are abundant and loud on the internet, so we have put together the best security tips for generating and managing strong passwords to protect your data from hackers.

Methods hackers use to get your passwords

1. Dictionary-based hacks: This is an automated program that systematically combines and runs through dictionary words from commonly to least-commonly used. This hack mimics obvious passwords and will break accounts with low password strength (For example: "Pass1546" or "Liverpool786")

2. Social scraping: Hackers know that the accounts with the weakest password are often ones that use names, birthdays, and personal information to form the password itself (For example: "Rover011063"). Hackers can browse and scrape your social media to pull information that you may have willingly shared online but unwittingly used to form your passwords.

3. Brute force attacks: This is when an automated program runs through every possible character combination to find your password. These attacks are usually highly successful against short passwords. Imagine your password is a variation of "Password" (which is extremely bad by the way!), a brute force attack would cycle through all the possible formations, such as "p455w0rd", "p@sswOr6" etc, until they find the right one.

4. Phishing: Here, a hacker will pretend to be a credible and trusted individual or organisation to get sensitive information from you. Phishing schemes use



fraudulent websites, emails and even calls to trick you into a breach.

Top 10 tips for strong password security

1. Never use personal information: We get it; it is easier to remember your passwords if you tie it to something or someone that you will never forget or misremember. However, this is the biggest no-no in password security. Anything that is known about you or discoverable is a no-go. This means no family names, pet names, personal locations or even interests and hobbies. This has not stopped users, however, as a MicroBizMag survey revealed that 4.1% of their respondents use the name of a pet in their passwords. You would be surprised just how much of your data and personal information hackers can find freely online. You do not want to make it easy for them!

2. Unique passwords: In the past, advice suggested using a singular base password and then adding unique characters/numbers to it for separate accounts. Not only is this a bad idea but also a point of vulnerability. If a competent cyber attacker can figure out your base password, it will not take them long to infiltrate all your accounts. You **MUST** use a different and unique password for each site you sign up to.

3. Disable browser storage: Browsers such as Chrome, Safari and Explorer will offer to store your passwords for you to speed up online form processes. Whilst this is tempting, please do not store passwords in your browser. Hackers can use malware to sneak into your browser data and steal passwords. In fact, as recently as December 2021, new malware called Red-Line was seen to be wreaking havoc on data stored in browsers.

4. Passphrase vs Password: Research shows that single or simple passwords can be very easily cracked. Cyber hackers use a program called rainbow tables to regularly target accounts using the most commonly used passwords, in both their hashed and encrypted versions. The current best practice is to do away with passwords as we traditionally know them and opt for passphrases. Staying away from personal words and interests, formulate a passphrase with random entries. Examples of strong passphrases include: “carpetchinarocket153”, “keyfacemagenta76”, “fashionlorryfly923” etc.

.....do not store passwords in your browser. Hackers can use malware to sneak into your browser data and steal passwords.

5. How to use special characters: Often you will find websites or online portals asking you to use special characters (numbers, capitals, and symbols) to strengthen your passwords. Make sure you do this but in the right way. Do not use special characters to replace letters in your base password/passphrase. This is a trick that hackers are aware of and look out for. For example, do not turn the passphrase “carpetchinarocket153” into “C4RPE7CH1N4ROCKE7153”. Hacking software is now smart enough to simply substitute letters in a known base passphrase for special letters until they hit the jackpot. So, when you are using special characters, use them between words in your passphrase. For example, “carpetchinarocket153”, should be “carpet%\$china/?rocket**345!”.

6. Stay away from keyboard paths: There is a habit amongst some online

users to use keyboard paths as passwords as they are easy to remember. This is one of the worst practices for password security. Never use sequential keyboard paths such as “QWERTY” or “123456” to form passwords, lest you want a hacker to break into your account. According to NordPass, over 2.5 million people use “123456” as their password.

7. Size Matters: When asked to create a password, you will often be given a minimum character count. As a good rule of thumb, try to generate a password that is at least twice as long as the recommended character count. The longer the password you choose, the harder it is to crack. For example, a 12-character password takes 62 trillion times longer to crack than a six-character password. This is, again, another reason to use a passphrase rather than a password.

8. Two-factor authentication: 2FA is necessary for protecting your accounts from nefarious cyberattacks. You will find that a lot of social networks and websites now include 2FA as a standard aspect of their password security. However, other sites have it as a selectable option in your account’s security settings, so make sure you find and enable it. With 2FA, if someone tries to log in to your account from a different IP address or device than normal, you will be sent a one-time code to your mobile device via SMS to authenticate the login. If a hacker manages to crack your password, they should be halted by the 2FA obstacle as they will not have access to your one-time pass code sent to your mobile device.

.....a 12-character password takes 62 trillion times longer to crack than a six-character password.

9. Believe in the password manager: You have so many plates spinning, why do you need to add password management to your overloaded brain activity? Using a password manager not only lets you generate passwords in an instant but also recognises which passwords are associated with which account. There are a whole host of password managers out there that create encrypted vaults for your passwords, such as LastPass, Dashlane, NordPass etc..

10. Update and change your passwords: In the past, it was recommended to regularly update and change your passwords. Whilst this advice still holds true, you should not be changing them all the time. Research from The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) states that when users update their passwords regularly, their new entries become derivative and easily guessable. If you have a strong password that has stood the test of time, stick with it. But if you are seeing suspicious activity or unrecognised logins, make sure you are swift to update and change your password. According to a Google survey, only 45% of users change their password after a breach!

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Ramifications

Civic societies are not immune from the repercussions of national and international situations. Brexit, Covid and the 'Russian War' continue to have an impact on the British economy – but those impacts 'trickle down' through the economy and hit all of us with concomitant implications for the civic movement.



Whether you think Brexit a good idea or not, or subscribe to the notion that global warming is at least in part man-made – or not, I think we can probably agree that things ain't what they used to be.

We have seen trade and non-trade barriers introduced as a result of Brexit (whether intentionally or not). There are labour and skills shortages because of both Brexit and Covid, an energy crisis driven in the main by the Russian War but further complicated through the global effort to meet carbon emission targets, and a shortage of raw materials which can probably be attributed to all these factors. And all have the potential to create problems for things that civic societies hold dear. Let me explain.....

Skills and labour shortages are slowing down building and conservation work; yes, skills can be taught, but it takes time to master them and there has to be a supply of people wanting to learn – it doesn't happen overnight. While the government has shown a certain level of generosity of late with levelling up funding, Towns Fund grants and funding for Heritage Action Zones, the projects that these funds are intended to support often require building and construction work – or skilled conservation work. The grants drive up demand for labour and skills and local authorities end up competing with each other as they chase the same companies in pursuit of common deadlines imposed by the various funding rounds.

Similarly, skills shortages have created something of a jobs market for Conservation Officers and planning staff – at Wakefield, we lost both our Conservation Officers in 2022 – one to the private sector and one to another local authority. The jobs have been advertised but it takes time to find suitable replacements – and success cannot be guaranteed. Like many employers, local authorities are finding it difficult to fill vacancies.

In addition to the well-reported staff shortages in the NHS, for example, the hospitality sector is also suffering – hotels, restaurants and bars are struggling to find staff and some are having to reduce their opening hours or capacity as a result. Taken with increased energy costs, some establishments have decided to close as it's no longer financially viable to continue.

Obtaining parts and raw materials is also problematic in some cases – in part this is due to the 'bounce back' from Covid where global economies are opening up again but with the result that everyone wants the same goods and

materials supplied all at once. An example that I am keenly aware of is the continuing international shortage of aluminium. Combined with increased energy and staff costs, we have seen the price of one of my Society's blue plaques increase from £525 at the beginning of 2022 to £675 by the end of last year – and we have been warned that another price increase is imminent.

On top of the above concerns is the potential implication for civic society membership numbers. At Wakefield, we have already seen a few of our members who, in re-prioritising their spending because of inflation, have decided not to renew their membership of the Society this year. No doubt others as yet unknown, will be deterred from joining, despite our membership fee offering what we think is excellent value.

Even if the rate of inflation does start to fall, unless we experience a period of *deflation*, the price increases we have seen in recent years are now locked in – they are the new normal – and it's going to take some time for people's incomes to catch up, especially for those who have mortgages to pay and who are now having to make increased repayments because of the political turmoil we saw in the autumn of 2022.

So what steps can civic societies take to protect themselves from the impact of inflation? Well, the obvious thing is to review the cost of everything you do to ensure that (a) each activity remains essential to your core purpose and (b) that the cost still represents value for money in terms of the benefits. But it might also mean stopping certain activities or reducing their frequency. Small changes can help – doing more on-line can save money over doing things in print or in-person, for example.

Then there is the option of looking for other sources of funding, or digging into reserves, if either option exists for you. After that, though, it will probably boil down to considering whether or not to increase membership fees; not necessarily without risk, of course, as some existing members might decide to call it a day rather than pay the increased amount.

The good news is that YHACS has maintained subscriptions at £50 per society once more for 2023 (we last increased the YHACS membership fee in 2012). We've been able to do that in large part because we have reduced our expenditure, something actually made easier by Covid because we had to hold our quarterly meetings on-line, which is cheaper, and because of the support we've had from our member societies who have often hosted our events at their own cost – such as when we met in Scarborough and then in Doncaster in 2022 (and a big thank you to both of the local societies for helping not just with the cost but also the logistics – two great events!). Also, YHACS committee members have often waived their right to claim expenses from the association.

The YHACS committee puts in the hours on behalf our regional membership to make things happen for you. I hope that your society will continue to support our efforts by renewing your membership for another year.

As I've said many times before, without our members, there would be no YHACS.

Twittered Out?

The acquisition of Twitter by Elon Musk has not been *universally* popular, shall we say, and some of the changes he has introduced to the platform since taking



charge are of ‘questionable benefit’.

Many Twitter users have been jumping ship – or least getting the lifeboats ready – and moving to alternative platforms either because they dislike Musk and what he stands for or because they fear the end of Twitter and want to build a new community on a different platform now so that they are prepared for Twitter’s possible demise. But which platform should you move to?

Well, apart from the obvious alternatives of Facebook and Instagram, the new -ish kids on the block are Tribel (sometimes referred to as Tribel Social) and Mastodon (where one ‘toots’ rather than ‘tweets’). Neither of these works quite like Twitter – each has its advantages and disadvantages – and, like Facebook and Instagram, each has its own adherents and proponents.

I am on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram in a personal capacity and run Wakefield Civic Society’s accounts on all three of these platforms (taking great care to make sure I’m only posting the personal stuff on my own accounts, rather than the Society’s accounts – easy to confuse in the excitement of the moment!). Like others thinking about the future of Twitter, I decided to look at the alternatives.

The first one I explored was Tribel. I saw some negative coverage about security which did concern me – and it too is owned by a business, in this case fronted by two brothers - Rafael Rivero and Omar Rivero, so could be bought out by ‘another Elon Musk’, or even Musk himself. It claims to be pro-democracy and against hate (Twitter can be a bit of a free-for-all at times) and is said to be ‘left-leaning’ politically. The biggest drawback as I saw it was that you have to decide which groups you want to belong to and who gets to see your posts. Frankly, it was so complicated (compared to Twitter) that I gave up and closed my account fairly swiftly. Maybe I should have persevered because I keep seeing very positive reviews from users.



Instead, I opened an account on Mastodon. This is what is called a ‘federated’ service. You join it by signing up to a server. These servers are operated by individuals – and each has its own rules and expectations of appropriate behaviour. I signed up for the mastodonapp.uk server (my account is @MrTrickett@mastodonapp.uk if you’re interested). I can see other posts on this app (which tend to be UK-based) but I can also look for posts on the many other servers if I want. It is vulnerable to the individual who hosts the server you’ve selected pulling the plug: you’d lose your account instantly – and all your followers if that were to happen. The federated nature of the set-up probably means that it could never be bought by a wealthy individual or organisation as they would have to buy up all the servers too – and some server owners would refuse to sell.



It can be hard to find other users that you know on Mastodon – it helps if they have the same account name as they do on Twitter but some people don’t. (For example, on Twitter, I’m @MrTrickett, so I carried this over to Mastodon but, if you’re on Mastodon and trying to find me, it will help to know which server I’m on too). Initially, at least, I encountered some of the problems other new users were experiencing. Although Mastodon has been around for a while, it was operating under the radar – then, following Musk’s purchase of Twitter, there was a sudden and huge rush of people opening up Mastodon accounts – and all those federated servers couldn’t cope. The server owners, mostly volunteers,

running things at their own expense were having to ramp up their server capacity quickly to deal with the influx and, in the meantime, new users were finding it difficult to complete the set-up of their accounts and then to actually post things when they did manage to get their account running.

To use Mastodon effectively, you also have to choose the right App. Not all Mastodon apps are equal! I eventually settled on 'Tusky' for my phone but had to open my account via the browser on my laptop as I couldn't get the app I was using at the time to validate my account just using my phone.

Established Mastodon users were wary of the influx of Twitter people and rather resented that these new users wanted to use Mastodon in the same way as they had previously used Twitter (Mastodon is much more polite!). And Twitter people were complaining about the lack of Twitter-style features. Things did eventually settle down....

Now, I have found Twitter to be a hugely beneficial on a personal level – and I would recommend it to anyone to try. It's a great source of news with items appearing well ahead of what you see on the main news channels. I have also built relationships with people I didn't previously know – occasionally getting to meet them in person (not always intentionally!) while deepening friendships with people I already knew. I've also found people to speak at civic society events!

And those benefits are magnified when you are using Twitter to promote the activities of your organisation. I use the Wakefield Civic Society Twitter account (@WakefieldCivicS) to promote the Society's events, for example – and having nearly 2,800 followers means that my society posts have the potential to reach a very large audience as each of those followers could retweet the Society's posts to their followers. I also interact with other civic societies, Civic Voice and other organisations that operate in the built environment sphere. (While Wakefield Civic Society is also on Facebook and Instagram, these reach different audiences, although there is some overlap.)

It is because I am so well-established on Twitter, both in a personal capacity and with the Society's account, that the thought of decanting to another platform fills me with dread. Mastodon's OK, but I don't think it's as good, or as simple to use, as Twitter. I haven't seen much activity from other civic societies yet on Mastodon (although I may just not have found it) so, on balance, while I'll keep my personal Mastodon account as a potential safety net should Twitter close, I think I'm going to persevere with Twitter for now and I won't be rushing to open up a Wakefield Civic Society account on Mastodon. I like Twitter too much and find it very easy to use despite the recent changes that have been introduced.

If any of our readers have experience, good or bad, of Mastodon or Tribel – or any of the other social networking platforms for that matter - I'd like to hear about it Do you agree with me that Twitter remains the best platform of its type – or have you swung round to favour one of the competitors?

Do let me know.

**Kevin Trickett MBE,
Chair**

“TURBULENT TIMES” – A COMMENT

The autumn 2022 issue of the YHACS newsletter began with a 4-page article titled ‘*TURBULENT TIMES*’ which was signed by Kevin Trickett MBE, Chair, YHACS. It attacked a series of actual, or claimed intended, government policies or proposals at that time. These included references to, and quotations from, other sources, which together contributed to claimed widespread opposition to the government’s ‘attack on nature’. The author also made clear his opinions on a number of matters, including his opposition to Brexit.

How did this article read to you, the reader? Perhaps a clear statement of the obvious? Or a one-sided rant by an opposition party political activist? Or maybe somewhere in between? In any case did it make you better informed by the time you reached the end? You probably understood the author’s opinions and emotions but how well did you feel you had learned both sides’ views on each topic the article addressed? Had the article changed your mind on any of the topics it covered?

There are many topics of interest to civic societies and to their members. The new requirement for ‘biodiversity net gain’ in planning applications and how to ‘offset’ proposed net losses from planned developments provide examples of further complexity now part of the planning process. Although the focus and level of interest in each topic will vary between members and across societies, it is probably fair to say that many issues of interest to civic societies are indeed affected by new legislation, and particularly by planning legislation.

In each civic society, there are likely to be members holding a range of views. It is unlikely that all members will fully agree with each other on any one issue. For any organisation to present a view on something compromises are indeed likely to be needed. Somehow, different people with differing views are likely to need persuading to agree to pursue an agreed common course of action.

How best to get agreement? How best to persuade someone of the merits of your views or of your approach? There have been many books written on how best to negotiate or get agreement and there will be no single ‘correct’ approach: what persuades one person may actually make another more determined to continue in opposition. The language used and the tone you make are important decisions to take: are you setting out to try to inform? to persuade? to shock? to annoy?

Think briefly in a different context. Does it help you decide, or change your mind if you hear multiple views on a topic? Do you like to hear only ‘facts’? Are you swayed by ‘emotion’? Do you like to read opinions different to your own, either to find out how others think or to refine your own view? Does finding your journey blocked by a climate activist or seeing an old master painting daubed in ink make you decide to sell your car and always travel by bus? Some will be persuaded to change....but others may take the opposite approach and buy a new car, if only to show their contempt for the activist determined to impose his or her view on them. Should an activist who causes disruption be applauded or imprisoned?

I read the YHACS article by Kevin Trickett at roughly the same time as two presentations on much the same matters by senior planning professionals given to two different conservation organisations of both of which I am a member.

Both those professionals chose a factual approach, typically picking the reasons being promoted in favour of each change, as expressed by proponents, and reasons against, as expressed by opponents. They gave their interpretations of each point as they saw it affecting the interests of the respective organisations. They also made clear when they were expressing personal views, including on how specific proposals might be influenced or changed on their way through to become legislation. Both presentations were low on emotion and did not express personal views on other matters. I emerged from both those two presentations feeling better informed, with a clearer understanding of views other than my own and, yes I admit it, I even changed my views on a couple of the issues.

Some of the matters referred to here are now being addressed by legislation going through parliament as part of the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill. The parliamentary process involves considerable lobbying and scrutiny, both inside and outside parliament. You may well have heard of changes made late in 2022 to this legislation, including how new housing numbers are to be decided in local plans, but many more detail changes are likely to be made by both Commons and Lords on the way to final legislation reaching the statute book, possibly later this year.

Planning issues are often contentious. They typically involve different, and potentially conflicting, interests which often cannot be fully resolved to everyone's satisfaction. Some of the new legislation is likely to make considerable changes to how aspects of planning works in England. I suggest it is worth anyone involved, or interested, in their local area keeping informed on the range of topics, listening to and reading a range of views and discussing calmly with your friends and colleagues, in the way Civic Societies are used to working together. Along the way, you should become better informed and you may even change your view, at least on some point.

Geoff Hughes

Editor – The author wishes to make clear that these comments are his personal views

DONCASTER CIVIC TRUST.....OUR TREE FUND PROBLEM

In the 1970s Doncaster Civic Trust was concerned about the lack of trees in the Borough, particularly in the town centre. We set up a Tree Fund with donations from members. One large donation required us to register as a charity in return.



The scheme has been extremely successful for many years and has enabled us to fund the planting of hundreds of trees right across the MBC area. A few years ago our Chairman, John Holmes, began negotiations to plant trees in various parks supporting volunteer groups. Again, this was successful.

However, all funding and planting came to



a halt with the pandemic. As things began to ease the Green Spaces team at the Council were diverted on to clearing fly tipping instead. Unfortunately since they returned to their normal jobs we have lost our rapport with the Department partly because of staff turnover. Also they say they now have sufficient funds from the Government to cover all tree planting. Further, a change in the rules means we cannot easily deal directly with volunteer groups operating on Council land.

Meanwhile in 2022 the Council embarked on a tree planting programme which included replacing lost or diseased street trees and planting on other roads which had not had trees before. None of this was paid for by the Trust.

So we have found this hugely frustrating. We have managed to plant some trees on private land where there is public access, but this has been limited.

So we are asking if any other society has had similar problems and if so, how did you solve it?

If you are able to offer suggestions please email us at mail@doncastercivictrust.org.uk

Peter Coote
Doncaster Civic Trust

Editor - This article was submitted for the Autumn Newsletter but was erroneously omitted from that edition.

Geoff Hughes of Huddersfield Civic Society responded:

Peter,
I was certainly bemused by your council's lack of interest in your offer of 'free trees'.

I am on committees of both Huddersfield Civic Society and Yorkshire Gardens Trust and have been bemused at how Kirklees Council seems to keep having spare trees to plant. It's not just that we are lucky to have new woodlands nearby, such as the former wasteland that is now Dewsbury Country Park, but last winter our council insisted on planting even more trees in already very well-planted Greenhead Park and Beaumont Park to the extent that some open play areas and intended fine views to Castle Hill and the Holme Valley are disappearing.

Looking further, I think the answer may lie in an increasing amount of funding now being channelled into new 'national forests'. In my area this is the White Rose Forest (<https://whiteroseforest.org/>) which, under the guidance of the Forestry Commission, covers ALL tree planting in the whole of West Yorkshire AND the whole of North Yorkshire. There are separate forest areas for other areas. This therefore probably covers funding both local/community woodlands and plantings by landowners - large or small - across the whole county, there being examples on the White Rose website.

In September 2022 funding was then announced to cover *planting 400 more hectares (more than 1.5sq miles) of trees across the White Rose Forest area in just this coming winter*: <https://whiteroseforest.org/white-rose-forest-secures-7-5million-funding-for-woodland-creation/>. This compares with 150 hectares planted last winter, ie an increase of 166%! I imagine the situation across



South Yorkshire may be similar. This starts to explain to me how central government funding for new tree planting is coming into our areas. I can't find any overall plan for what comes next; presumably everything depends on public, private and third sector bodies bidding for each new tranche of funding?

Perhaps the best (? only) way now to fit into this structure is to be offering land that you own to receive the increasing funding and trees?!

Geoff Hughes

FOR SALE!

You may (or not!) remember that three years ago, I wrote about the now derelict Linton Camp which nestles, and has done for over 70 years, just outside the beautiful old village of Linton, near Grassington.

Planning permission had been sought and much local opposition was against it. Full planning was granted FINALLY in June last year.

Imagine my surprise to see in our local Rightmove this week (Thursday 27th October), that Carter Jonas is advertising the plot for sale at an eye watering £4,500,000! The blurb details:

"Located ½ a mile from the picturesque village of Linton and 1¼ miles from Grassington. The largest leisure development project in the Yorkshire Dales National Park over the last couple of years. The Linton project is to develop a luxury hotel and resort within the Yorkshire Dales National Park on the site of the derelict Linton School which was used in World War II as a camp for evacuees. Full planning permission granted in June 2022, by Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, ref: C/50/46L. Planning permission for a 46-bedroom hotel including 34 en-suite rooms with balconies and 6 self-contained hotel suites (2-bedrooms). In addition, a spa, gym, bars, restaurants, 9 self-contained holiday lodges and an internal 72-space car park. Set in 13.05 acres with panoramic views over the surrounding countryside. The hotel will be positioned to attract the UK leisure market for short-breaks, focused on fine dining, outdoor pursuits and relaxation all year round, predominantly for the adult market, providing high levels of personal service to guests."

Could it be that the cost of building is now astronomically more than it was pre-everything? That the increase in interest rates and the state of not only our economy but that of the world, would mean the current owner got cold feet? My conjecture, perhaps totally inaccurate, is that he is selling because he can't afford to take this project on himself?



Photos
Left - Now
Right - Proposed

Whatever the reasons, I am hopeful that nobody else wants to take on this prospective blot on the landscape. Oh sorry, luxury leisure development on the green and pleasant, currently unspoiled fields around us.

Judith Blackburn





ENHANCING SELBY GOOD DESIGN AWARDS 2022



In November 2022, Selby Civic Society hosted its Good Design Awards for 2022 at Wetherells Department store, with Mayor Wendy Nichols and Civic Society members as guests.

Chair of the Selby Civic Society, Michael Dyson, introduced proceedings and explained how important it was to enhance our buildings to maintain Selby's heritage. A main aim of the Selby Civic Society is to encourage high standards of architecture, town planning and design and the Good Design Award very much fits with this aim.

Angela Lambert-Dowell, Committee Member reminded everyone that this award, started in 1988, was the 26th such plaque, and how important it was to celebrate and congratulate all those who have put a special effort into enhancing buildings, both new builds and renovations, and those who have helped to make our town a better place for all. She explained that nominations had been received for nine buildings.

The Committee of the Civic Society met and using criteria looking at:

- the quality of the design
- how well the building fitted in to the rest of the townscape
- how appropriate the materials used were, and
- the quality of the workmanship

they had put five buildings through to the voting stage.

After voting there was one clear winner, and four buildings were awarded '*Highly Commended.*'

Details of the winners:

24 Finkle Street– Financial Options and J P Harll Estate Agency
Highly Commended.



24 Finkle Street - Before (left) and after (right)

The Civic Society awarded this as it is now a well-designed and traditionally proportioned shop front which is smart and fits very well with the rest of the street. The materials and workmanship are of high quality and the added detail of the clock is very striking.

Selby Abbey North Porch Gates – Selby Abbey and Simmonsheriff Architects
Highly Commended.



Selby Abbey, North Porch - Before (left) and after (right)

The Civic Society considered that this was a very beautiful design which elegantly echoed the stone detail of the archway behind it. It showed very good craftsmanship and use of appropriate materials and had a very practical use as well.

Park House, 6 The Crescent Selby – Rose Xu

Highly Commended.

**6, The Crescent -
Before (left) and
after (right)**



The Society felt that this had been a building in urgent need of renovation and repair and one which holds a key position opposite the Abbey. Quality materials had been used and excellent workmanship. The renovation had been very accurate for the building, being a Georgian town house and it now looks very beautiful within the streetscape.

The former NatWest Bank building on the Crescent – The Crescent Dental & Implant Centre

Highly Commended.

**Dental Centre -
Before (left) and
after (right)**



The Society judged that this was an excellent repurposing of a key building, again opposite the Abbey. A great deal of work had been required on the inside of the building - it is now very smart, matches well with its surroundings and the quality of the work carried out was high.

21-23 Brook Street - Mack & Lawler Builders and DWA Architects Overall Winner of the 2022 Good Design Award.

**21-23 Brook
Street - Before
(left) and after
(right)**



The Society felt that this was a building that had been spoiling the area and was really beyond repair. The committee were impressed by how the design of

the new building echoed the original building even down to the small touches such as the stone sills and window shape. This therefore meant that the new building fitted into the rest of the street very well. The quality of workmanship was excellent, with good materials. It had made a dramatic improvement to the streetscape and was of high value to the community with many people living there.



The 2022 winner of the award – Mack & Lawler Builders Ltd receive the Good Design Plaque from Selby Civic Society Chair, Michael Dyson



2022 Good Design Award Winner and Commended representatives. From left: Mack & Lawler Ltd; Selby CS Chair Michael Dyson; Selby Town Mayor, Wendy Nichols; Park House owner: JP Harll representative; The Crescent Dental Centre representative; Selby CS Committee Member Angela Lambert-Dowell

Angela Lambert Dowell

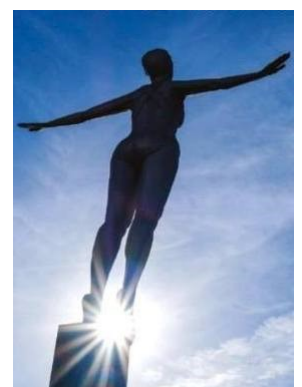
Photos courtesy of Angela and Chris Lamber-Dowell and David Moss

SAVE SCARBOROUGH TOWN HALL

In 2014 our council presented a plan to abandon our Town Hall and move to a “nice” new building. We opposed the proposal and produced a ten-page leaflet detailing the qualities of this historic building. The Town Hall was saved but currently is again under threat.

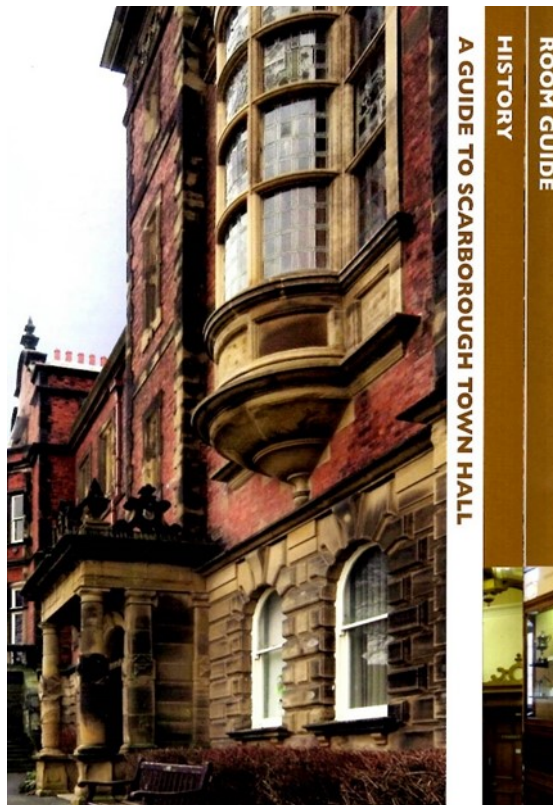
In September 2022 we asked the Scarborough & Whitby Area NYCC Constituency Committee what will happen to Scarborough Town Hall when local government is reorganised next April and North Yorkshire Council become our unitary authority? The NYCC Officer response to this question was “The Council will be undertaking reviews of all office accommodation in Scarborough” and “At this stage, however, no decisions have been made, including in respect of Scarborough Town Hall.” In the discussions that followed, the following comments were made.

Castle Division County Councillor, Janet Jefferson, thought the town hall would be a good location for a museum and thought the issue needed to be discussed sooner rather than later. But Falsgrave & Stepney County Councillor, Liz Colling, said that with the amount of work needing to be done to transition to the new council, the town hall's future wasn't a priority.



The Civic Society believe that a plan should be developed for the creation of a new town museum in our historic Town Hall by obtaining grant-funding to expand Scarborough Museums and Galleries. This will be difficult to achieve, so work is needed now if this project is to be successful. For what seems like many years there has been talk of a Museum on the High Street, so this is an ideal opportunity.

Scarborough Town Hall has been the centre of Civic affairs since the turn of the twentieth century but before that it was the home of John Woodall. He had the house built which was an impressive red-brick mansion named St Nicholas House. The building was designed by Henry Wyatt who displayed the design at the Royal Academy in 1852. The style of the house is Jacobean. There are two storeys and an attic, all in red brick with stone dressings, plinth, string courses, cornice and parapet. In 1898, John Woodall's son, offered St Nicholas House to the Corporation, who purchased the building for £33,575. In the same year work began on the conversion of the house into a town hall at a total cost of £18,522. Harry W Smith the borough engineer designed the new eastern (seaward) wing in a similar style to the original, to accommodate the council chamber and other offices.



The Town Hall is an important cultural asset packed with historical artefacts. Currently there is no capacity to display these works of art elsewhere. It's very easy for people to say that **it is too early to be discussing such projects but too often at a later date the same people say it's too late.** We are told that the new authority will provide greater benefits to our community and this project would allay fears that the changes will result in asset stripping by NYC.

So far we have full support from Scarborough Museums and Galleries; we have made submissions to all members of the new North Yorkshire Council and a meeting planned for January with the correct portfolio holder of the new Council; our local MP has publicly stated that *"The Town Hall is a major feature of Scarborough's heritage and should be retained as a civic asset."*

Adrian Perry

ARKLESIDE KILN

Taking as our cue the break in the seemingly torrential downpours of late October, my husband and I jumped in the car to travel the half-hour up to beautiful Coverdale.

I had studied the map and we picked a walk from Arkleside up on to the moors and for a superb looking circular in the sunshine. Having parked at Horsehouse, we trotted down the road to the hamlet (and dead end) which is Arkleside. My eye was caught by an unusually shaped limekiln at the side of the track. Kilns are not rare on the moors in the Dales, as there was much mining in days gone by.



But apart from the shape, what was unusual was learning from the Information Board alongside that it was Grade II listed! "...it is one of around 800 in the Yorkshire Dales. It was built before 1850 but its exact date is unknown. This design, with high pointed arch, is unusual for the Dales, but follows a pattern seen elsewhere in Coverdale. It was carefully sited for ease of operation: coal and limestone were tipped into the top of the bowl from the upper road, whilst burnt lime was drawn out of the arch.

Some of the lime would have been used for mortar and whitewash but most was spread on the land, either creating new pastures out of moorland or for improving existing pastures. Adding lime 'sweetened' the soil, improved the grass and produced better livestock."

Listed in April 1988, it now appears to have a use for which it was not originally intended.

Judith Blackburn

THE FOUNTAIN, FOUND!

Like many towns in the Victorian era, Grimsby had its own Drinking Fountain in a fight against cholera and typhoid.

In a bid to provide free, clean drinking water to the people of Grimsby, 'ours' was commissioned by businessman and artist, Edward Bannister. Its original position near the Docks, was in the way of 1960's developments, so was removed, and after repairs and much discussion was relocated in St James Square in Grimsby Town Centre. In the mid 1990's it was removed again by contractors, but damaged it in the process, 'put in storage' by the council and subsequently disappeared. To cut a long 10-year story short, the Civic Society wrote on several occasions to Council officers in North East Lincolnshire with little progress. Our former Chair, Martyn Turner attempted to find its location to no avail. Most recently, it was found in a reclamation yard near Louth, 15 miles to the south of Grimsby.

**Grimsby
Cleethorpes
& district
Civic Society**
Encouraging pride and
interest where **you** live

Produced by Macfarlane's Foundry in Glasgow, it is a pattern No. 8 drinking fountain and as such, many towns in the UK have the-same-but-different, based on 'pattern No. 8' – but this one is ours and we wanted it back!

We started following up on other artefacts that had been removed, gone missing, etc., and formed a Sub-Group to follow these up, led by Exec. members Kerry Henderson and Marion Piggott.

Kerry brings the story up to date

In 1869 local entrepreneur and philanthropist Edward Bannister donated a beautiful cast-iron drinking fountain to the people of Grimsby. This was not unusual from the man who founded the local hospital, arts school, built the pier in Cleethorpes, created the first library in Grimsby - which he filled with donated art works - and also built houses for sailors in Grimsby. Fast forward to 2022 and Bannister's grave in Ainslie Street cemetery is without a headstone, the library was lost in the war and the drinking fountain's canopy was languishing in a reclamation yard in Louth. We know it ended up in Louth because the Civic Society found it there and began a project to bring it back to Grimsby. The whereabouts of the fountain bowl and base are not known.

Unfortunately, the canopy was in a shocking state of repair. Having been moved from its original location in Albert Gardens to St James' Square and then into storage before making its way to Louth, on the way it had lost many parts, including its legs. The Civic Society successfully made a bid to NELC's Heritage Starter Grants for funding to tell the fountain's story and put it in display in a local Gallery, for all to see. The exhibition, *The Fountain, Found!*, had hundreds of visitors over four weeks and they were treated not only to a display of the fountain but also an imaginative re-telling of the Bannister story accompanied by items from local archives. One of the highlights of the show was the display of three original artworks by the man himself, but it also kickstarted the conversation around who has the right to 'sell off' what essentially belongs to the people of the town. Where are other remembered artifacts but now 'disappeared'?

Grimsby Cleethorpes & district Civic Society
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The Fountain, Found!

19 November - 17 December 2022

The Grimsby, Cleethorpes and district Civic Society welcome you to a retelling of the story of Edward Bannister, a local philanthropist and lover of the arts. Over 150 years ago, as Mayor of Grimsby, he donated the drinking fountain, first sited in Albert Gardens.

This show re-presents the fountain in its current state and its journey throughout the years and within the town.

We hope to raise awareness of local arts and culture and the legacy of a great man who helped shape Great Grimsby, and how we can take pride in local projects.

Please come and share your thoughts, memories and questions.

SIGN OUR PETITION:
WWW.CHANGE.ORG

Grimsby Cleethorpes & district Civic Society
Encouraging pride and interest where you live

turntable gallery
8 Victoria St, Grimsby, DN53 1DP
www.turntablegallery.uk
Open Tuesday - Saturday: 11:00 - 15:00



The exhibition opens



Photos - Clockwise from top left

- **Only half of the canopy is still standing.**
- **Discussion continues**
- **All exhibitions need promotion items to buy!**
- **The remaining two sides of the canopy on display**

The Civic Society has produced an on-line record of the project at www.bannisterlegacy.com and will continue to add to the story as more works are uncovered and the project progresses. A key element of the project was scoping the repair and reinstatement of the fountain and discussions with NELC as to how this can be achieved are on-going. The fountain, and other materials displayed at the exhibition are currently being curated by the Civic Society, the Turntable Gallery and WE1 who are a local organisation working on regeneration projects. In addition, local schools are displaying some of the content we generated and are beginning projects to teach local children more about this aspect of their heritage through history and art projects.

Kerry Henderson and Alan Nicholson

Photos by Through My Eyes Photography and GDCS



ARE PLACES BEING LEVELLED-UP, LEFT OUT OR EVEN FURTHER LEFT BEHIND?

The phrase "levelling up" has been frequently used over the past few days.

Use this link to see
all the Awards

111 places have received funding from the Government totalling £2.1 billion.

Since then, some commenters have questioned whether this funding will enhance the economic and social conditions of communities and regions that are underperforming. Some policymakers believe that funding at this level should be welcomed, while others believe that since local government funding has been cut since 2010, doing so is just a band-aid solution to much bigger problems. Others argue that we need a double devolution of funding and more money going straight to community organisations.



We must all agree that it is a good thing to try to get other places and regions on par with more prosperous ones. For the time being, it's difficult to predict whether this funding will have the desired effect of "levelling up" these areas or if it will just make some places even more "left out" and others even more "left behind."

Did the first round of Levelling Up funding make communities feel more confident and proud of themselves? Evidence suggests otherwise, according to new data from the public opinion research firm You Gov Perhaps Whitehall's strategy of focusing on "shiny" projects isn't the best way to solve common problems. Perhaps communities prefer open leisure centres, well-kept parks, and cleaner high streets. But perhaps not as good a photograph!

Use this link to see
what your area thinks

Read the You Gov research here

We are interested in hearing what civic societies across England have to say. Civic Societies are found in 41% of Levelling Up priority locations, so we'd be interested to know how you have been involved in some of the projects funded.

Get in touch via info@civicvoice.org.uk.

LEVELLING-UP AWARDS IN THE YORKSHIRE & HUMBER AREA

Barnsley **Barnsley Futures (Barnsley Central)** **£10,243,422**

Over £10 million will go on a new outdoor activity park in Barnsley, as well as revamping a youth centre in the town. This money will also be spent on a new music facility for young people and will help further develop Barnsley Civic arts centre.

Kirklees **Batley Town Centre** **£12,003,148**

£12 million will be handed to Batley to help regenerate the town centre. These improvements include pedestrianisation of Commercial Street, improvements to Market Place, providing better access around the town centre, and restoring the JBM Building for public use, supporting enterprise and access to jobs.

North East Lincs **Cleethorpes Masterplan** **£18,412,039**

North East Lincolnshire will be awarded over £18 million for a transformational regeneration of Cleethorpes seafront. This includes rejuvenating Cleethorpes' historic market square and regenerating Pier Gardens.

North Lincs **Barton Principal Town Regeneration Project** **£19,703,042**

Barton will receive almost £20 million for transport improvements around the town. The changes include improvements to the A1077 to alleviate congestion in the town centre, 14km of new cycle lanes, and mass improvements to the railway station including new cycle parking, an extension of the car park, and bus shelter upgrades.

Richmondshire **Catterick Garrison Town Centre Regeneration project** **£19,008,679**

Richmondshire will receive £19 million to transform Catterick Garrison town centre. This includes new routes for walking and cycling, a new town square, and a new community facility that will host new businesses and a community kitchen.

West Yorkshire **Bus Enhancement Package** **£41,248,832**

A huge investment of over £41 million for West Yorkshire will deliver improvements to bus services in the region. Improvements include safer and more accessible bus stops and bus stations, and better highways to improve journey times.

Y&H awards total £120M (5.7% of the £2100M total award)

David Moss

Information from
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-levelling-up-fund-to-spark-transformational-change-across-the-uk>



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:

Feb 13th: Membership Monday: Balancing heritage and development [Register here](#)
Feb 20th: In conversation with Matt Colledge, The High Street Task Force [Register here](#)
Feb 21st: APPG for Civic Societies: What does 'local consent' in planning mean? [Register here](#)
Mar 6th: Membership Monday: Civic Societies playing a crucial role in saving important buildings [Register here](#)
Mar 21st: APPG for Civic Societies: Levelling Up our Heritage High Streets [Register here](#) (Civic Voice members only)
Apr 18th: APPG for Civic Societies: What have Civic Societies ever done for us? Invitation only.
May 18th: Yorkshire Society Heritage Summit on 18th May: <https://theyorkshiresociety.org/event/2023-yorkshire-heritage-summit/>

NEXT YHACS MEETING

SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY 1:00 - 4.00 PM
MEMBERS MEETING AT
THE OLD SWAN HOTEL, HARROGATE, HG1 2SR

GUEST SPEAKER:
IAN HARVEY - DIRECTOR OF CIVIC VOICE

CONTACT: KEVIN TRICKETT ON 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**, Margaret Hicks-Clarke (*Civic Pride & Engagement*)
- **Secretary**, Helen Kidman (*Planning*)
- **Treasurer**, Alan Goodrum
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- **Exec Committee Member**, Tony Leonard
- **Exec Committee Member**, David Moss (*Newsletter and Communications*)
- **Exec Committee Member**, Jim Robinson (*Infrastructure*)
- **Exec Committee Member**, Paul Cartwright
- **Exec Committee Member**, Martin Hamilton (*Housing*)
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