YHACS
YORKSHIRE & HUMBER
Association of Civic Societies
Member of
CIVIC VOICE
talking civic sense

Spring 2026
Volume 22, Issue 1

SOCIETY INSIGHT

NATIONAL EMERGENCY BRIEFING ON THE CLIMATE & NATURE CRISIS

Last November saw a National Emergency Briefing on the climate and nature crises held in Westminster.

Hundreds of parliamentarians, peers, business leaders, faith leaders and celebrities were presented with evidence from leading scientists and other experts about the threats facing our country, for example from food, national security, and extreme weather events, together with what are often win-win solutions for climate, nature and our economy.

The government's publication in January of an intelligence committee report highlights the real and present dangers posed by these crises to our national security and prosperity. The Times reported that an unredacted version outlined even more alarming scenarios that could result from ongoing unaddressed climate breakdown such as mass migration and nuclear *war*.

As part of a nationally-coordinated series of local events, I'm writing to see if you would be interested in hosting a screening of a film, soon to be released (see link below) based on the Westminster briefing, followed by a discussion regarding the actions we need to take, and invite your MP, local councillors, local businesses, school communities, faith leaders, and the media to take part.

For more information and details of how to host a screening see the NEB website: https://www.nebriefing.org/

Prof Rick Battarbee FRS
University College London and
Addingham Environment Group

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

We all know that heritage - like our 5 a day - is good for us. According to Historic England "evidence demonstrates that visiting heritage sites can boost life satisfaction and happiness." Heritage also provides a sense of place and belonging and contributes to local economies. So how are our civic societies promoting heritage in their communities?

A primary focus of civic societies is built heritage but heritage comes in many other forms. The Oxford English Dictionary defines it as "the history, traditions, buildings and objects that a country or society has had for many years and that are considered an important part of its character." It encompasses cultures and memories, industrial, maritime and transport heritage, landscapes, parks and nature, museums, archives and libraries. That's quite a list.

Much of this was in evidence when I attended the recent 5th Yorkshire Heritage Summit in Barnsley, organised by the Yorkshire Society with our YHACS committee member Paul Cartwright a driving force behind it. Themes for the symposium were Barnsley's Heritage Action Zones and how Yorkshire's history, cultural heritage and natural heritage have made us who we are.

The Mayor of Barnsley, Coun David Leech, stops by the YHACS stall at the Yorkshire Heritage Summit.

See more photos from the 5th Yorkshire Heritage Summit on page 5

I took a break from the YHACS stand to walk around the hall and was impressed by the number and variety of organisations dedicated to celebrating heritage, including a number of our civic societies. Heritage in Yorkshire comes in all shapes and guises – from streetscapes and landscapes, rail and canal transport, industrial and family history and historical events such as the Battle of Flamborough Head. One woman I met joked: *"I daren't take any more leaflets – I've joined so many societies already!"* Well done Paul, the Yorkshire Society and Barnsley Civic Trust for leading walks and helping with the event.

In Goole we're celebrating the port town's 200th anniversary this year and a large number of organisations and individuals have come together under the Goole 2026 Bicentenary Group banner to organise a year-long programme of events and activities. These include theatre, film and music, heritage trails and walks, artwork and poetry, sports events and a big festival weekend in July, which will feature a flotilla of boats arriving down the Aire and Calder Navigation. Goole Town Council will host Mayors from all over the county to celebrate Yorkshire Day on 1st August.

Goole's Salt and Pepper Pot water towers all lit up for the Bicentenary event.

More than 3,000 people from a population of 20,000 watched the 'Shine on Goole' light projection on the Parish Church, depicting the town's history. The event, staged by East Riding

of Yorkshire Council and funded by the Arts Council, also included the illumination of the town's iconic Salt and Pepper Pot water towers, which could be seen for miles around.

At the YHACS agm, our Honorary President Kevin Trickett MBE gave a presentation on telling the story of our places in 50 objects. He explained that these could be a building, a place, a tradition, a historical event, an item, food or dish, personal history and recollections, or a famous person. I know a number of our YHACS societies are interested in setting up 50 Objects projects themselves, reflecting their own communities.

Heritage Open Days 2026 has the theme 'Everyday Heritage: Exploring Daily Working Life Through the Ages'. People will be encouraged to find out what jobs their ancestors did and what their daily lives were like. This is an interesting area for exploration as often we only hear about "great and good – or bad" but not the ordinary people.

Last year a post-graduate student in Public History from the University of York completed a placement with Goole Civic Society. We asked him to explore more about the everyday lives of the people who were there in early years of Goole. He picked out real people from the archives but sadly the lives of ordinary people are not well documented.

He introduced us to a methodology called 'critical fabulation', created by Saidiya Hartman in 2008. This is essentially taking a real person and building a picture of their life based on more general historical evidence from the time. He explained: "*None of the people I will present existed in exactly the way they are being depicted here. All of them use real names, occupations and experiences that are based on archival evidence, used to construct a cohesive narrative through which we can reflect on the experience of Goole's founders.*" An interesting concept which is worth further exploration.

John Paul Jones and his able assistants storytelling at Scarborough Castle

Costume is an excellent prop to promote heritage. Richmond and District Civic Society members donned period dress for Heritage Open Days last year, earning them some great publicity - including a picture spread in the Yorkshire Post - and third place in the YHACS/Peter Spawforth Awards.

I'm not averse to a long frock and bonnet myself and my husband John and I are often seen in costume in the company of our very own John Paul Jones, Father of the US Navy (aka David Newton) whose impressive outfit was made by his wife using a pattern sourced online.

I'd love to hear how other YHACS societies are celebrating heritage and promoting happiness in their communities.

A grand gesture from Geoff

A massive thank you to Geoff Wood, a YHACS stalwart and member of Wakefield Civic Society, who has given YHACS a very generous donation of

£1,000. We have agreed to use some of the money to buy our own sound system so we can ensure that everyone attending our events can hear clearly and participate fully.

Lottery bid

As reported at the agm, the YHACS committee was disappointed that our initial application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund was unsuccessful. However, we have agreed to revise it in line with the specific comments made. We have a meeting arranged with Louise Clare, NLHF Senior Engagement Manager North, and will resubmit our application taking onboard her guidance.

In the meantime I have been sourcing other training options. I recently attended free courses on Creating a Social Media Strategy and Managing Restricted Funds (in anticipation of getting some!). These are available exclusively to North Yorkshire charities through Community First Yorkshire **https://www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/**

I'd be interested to hear about any other free or low-cost training around the region so we can share information with our members.

Civic Voice Update

I'm pleased to see that Civic Voice continues on a positive trajectory. A number of our societies have registered for the Civic Voice National Conference in Liverpool on Friday 17th April. Vice Chair Alan Goodrum will be representing YHACS and I'm sure he will feed back at our YHACS meeting the following day.

The Civic Voice Expert Panel has been actively engaged in national policy, submitting formal responses to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Draft Design and Placemaking Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

In response to member feedback, Civic Voice is offering a group deal on specialist insurance for civic societies. This service is provided through WRS Insurance Brokers and may offer a more competitive rate for societies whose insurance is due for renewal.

Civic Voice has strengthened its Board with the appointment of three new members: John Bland (Spalding Civic Society), Phil Douce (Worcester Civic Society), and Malcolm Gardner (Wetherby Civic Society). Andrew Jackson has transitioned from his role as Co-Chair to become the Chair of Conferences and Events. Meanwhile a separate group continues work on ways to revitalise the charity and secure a more stable long-term future.

Hopefully this progress may encourage lapsed members to rejoin Civic Voice. It is important for the civic movement to have a national voice. You can read more on its activities at **https://civicvoice.org.uk/**

Margaret Hicks-Clarke
YHACS Chair

5th Yorkshire Heritage Summit…
…Some Images

The Yorkshire Society's 5th Yorkshire Heritage Summit rolled into Barnsley's Civic Theatre for the exhibition on 25 March, with the symposium in the Old Art School room.

3 keynote speakers
70 Symposium delegates
Almost 40 heritage organisations exhibited

Photos courtesy of Paul Cartwright

THE IMPACT OF A BLUE PLAQUE...
...BARBARA TAYLOR BRADFORD

Many of you will be familiar with author Barbara Taylor Bradford. Her first novel – A Woman of Substance – sold more than 30 million copies worldwide, and every novel she published since became best seller.

She was born and brought up in Armley, Leeds (she knew Alan Bennett who attended the same primary school) and after a stint working at the Yorkshire Evening Post (where she met Keith Waterhouse and a young cub reporter Peter O'Toole who reputedly asked her out on a date!), she went to London to work for national newspapers and finally emigrated to New York, having married an American, Robert Bradford where she eventually established herself full time as a fiction writer specialising in "strong women" and "rags to riches" sagas.

We always thought that her story would make for a fantastic blue plaque and when she died, we expected to receive a nomination soon after. We currently have quite a backlog of approved blue plaques and we cannot promise to unveil plaques quickly. However, when a plaque nomination has the ability to coincide with a key date or another event, we will often bump them up the list.

In this instance, we were approached by Channel 4, who were re-making what is still their most viewed drama (the mid-1980s A Woman of Substance adaptation starring Jenny Seagrove, Deborah Kerr and a young Liam Neeson) 40 years later. There was to be a film premiere in Leeds involving the actors, Barbara's close friends and associates (who were flying over from the USA for the occasion) and assorted media types and this provided an obvious opportunity for an unveiling with impact!

A nomination form was received and as soon as we had given it the go-ahead we had three weeks to get the plaque made, pull together a ceremony and event and send out invitations.
A record for us!

The ceremony took place at Armley Library (the plaque is now fixed on the external wall), where Barbara nurtured her interest in reading at an early age – she was the first child to be allowed to have two library tickets! Jodie Stott, who

co-ordinates our plaque programme, pulled out all the stops to make the event a success, navigating the dark arts of media management and PR! It was a particular honour that actor Brenda Blethyn (who plays the Deborah Kerr role in the remake) came along to unveil the plaque.

But the excitement did not stop there. Leeds Civic Trust Trustees and two of our members of staff attended the film premiere where other actors were present and the blue plaque took centre stage as a prop for many of the photographs. Jodie Stott and colleague Amy Sutcliffe even had a turn on the red carpet with the plaque in hand!

We unveil blue plaques to shine a light on the history of the places we live in, and having just unveiled our 208th blue plaque (for gold medal winning swimmer Doris Storey who worked as a machinist in the Burton's factory when she wasn't training), we are particularly keen on highlighting those who have risen from relatively ordinary beginnings to excel in their chosen field.

However, I also see the Blue Plaques scheme as an important shop window on the wider work of Leeds Civic Trust. In this instance, our blue plaque (and our banners) were centre stage in reports on Look North and Calendar and in very extensive local newspaper coverage and stories in The Independent and The Times. It also provided brilliant visual material for our social media and has been a talking point for many people we have come across since.

It was a pretty stressful few weeks putting the whole thing together, but the effort was undoubtedly worth it.

Martin Hamilton
Leeds Civic Trust

SCARBOROUGH'S BAR STREET CLOCK

Does your Society have projects which stimulate repeated discussions month after month with no serious conclusion?

I looked back to the minutes of February 2025 and found the following:

Bar Street Clock – AP reported on early-stage discussions with a council officer about this council-owned clock, with the possibility of a funding package being put together from Cllr Jefferson's locality budget and a contribution from ourselves.

It took until December for the council to give us the estimate for the works required to refurbish the clock, £20,000, rather more than we anticipated! In

addition, the council disowned the clock.

Research revealed that the clock was installed as one of the phases of town centre environmental improvement schemes, which were carried out in stages between about 1982 and 1987 - these included repaving Bar Street and erecting its entrance feature. The clock was initiated, designed in-house and commissioned by the former Scarborough Borough Council. Clearly it must belong to our council.

However, in a recent update to councillors, an officer said: "*I've checked with colleagues across the property, highways and culture teams, and we've been unable to find any records showing that North Yorkshire Council owns or has maintenance responsibility for this clock.*" They added: "*As far as we are aware, it has never been recognised as a council asset by Scarborough or North Yorkshire [councils], and given our current budget constraints, we're unable to assume responsibility or take on maintenance or repair obligations.*"

This last statement explains why it has taken so long to reach this point. The council has no intention of taking any action and the newspaper report - *Time could be running out for this piece of horological history, as it poses potential health and safety risks and could be removed* - could be accurate.

What a fiasco!

Adrian Perry

PONTEFRACT CIVIC SOCIETY

ALL CHANGE AT PONTEFRACT!
CHAIR STEPS DOWN AFTER 11 SUCCESSFUL YEARS
NEW CHAIR READIES THE CHARITY FOR THE FUTURE

On Sat 21 March, Pontefract Civic Society chair Paul Cartwright ended his current term of office following 15 years as a trustee, initially as secretary adding to that the role of vice chair before being elected to the top job as board chair.

Paul signalled his decision to the board in September 2025 as family plans were being made to relocate out of the district.

Paul Cartwright said "*I am incredibly proud of the significant transformation of Pontefract Civic Society moving it from a fairly inward-looking organisation to one which is now more well-known locally and across the country, as well a larger more open group, culminating in gaining the King's Award for Voluntary Service.*"

After the civic society's 2025 annual report was presented and approved, Kelvin Wilkins was elected as both board chair and heritage group coordinator, and Mike Farrell was elected as planning group coordinator for the first time, along with other trustees being re-elected.

Before proceedings were closed, Paul and his wife Christine were handed numerous surprise gifts and cards from civic society members, and Paul was appointed as honorary president, replacing Peter Cookson after 11 years in that role. Paul went on to say, "*I am humbled by the range of gifts and flowers, as we leave the place where we have lived all our lives, though we are moving to be between our sons and grandson, and this felt like the right time, but we will be coming back from time to time.*"

A number of awards and presentations for projects in 2025 then followed for community groups with Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens coming out on top receiving a trophy, a certificate and £75, with Pontefract Breast Cancer Support Group receiving a runner up certificate and £25; awards sponsored and presented by Paul Copley, Cartner's No. 5.

Appreciation certificates were then presented by vice chair Phil Cook for 1940s Ropergate support to The Old Post Office and Want 2 Jive, and for fundraising support to Paul Copley, Cartner's No. 5.

In his first closing address, Kelvin Wilkins said "*I offer my thanks to Paul and the trustees for all of their hard work to date. I am looking forward to the future, and that the civic society will now enter the next transitional phase, which could include a review of activities and specific matters such as the Constitution.*"

Paul Cartwright

NEWS FROM HALIFAX CIVIC TRUST

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Halifax Civic Trust was delighted to host Votes for Women in Halifax – and Across Yorkshire, an inspiring evening with Dr Jill Liddington at the Albany Club, Hope Hall.

Jill delivered a fascinating and richly illustrated talk exploring the courageous local women who campaigned for the vote, followed by a lively Q&A and book signing. The event not only shone a light on Halifax's important role in the suffrage movement but also raised valuable funds for the Trust. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Jill for giving her time and expertise on behalf of Halifax Civic Trust, and for helping to support our ongoing work in celebrating and protecting Halifax's heritage.

HALIFAX CIVIC TRUST SPRING LUNCH

Pictured L-R: Barrie Rutter OBE, Mayoress Linda Leigh, Mayor of Calderdale - Steven Leigh MBE & Halifax Civic Trust Chair Alan Goodrum

In March we held our spring lunch. An opportunity to meet up in the presence of the Mayor of Calderdale, Steven Leigh MBE, with good company and nice food and look forward to spring and the warner weather.

This year we were thrilled to be joined by our guest speaker actor Barrie Rutter OBE who gave a fascinating talk called ***"Hull, Hell 'n Halifax"*** about his connections to Dean Clough and his time as the founder and former artistic director of the Northern Broadsides theatre company. The event sold out very quickly and we could have sold many more tickets, so a big thank you to Barrie and everyone who came along for making the event such a success.

Mark Fennelly

Goole Civic Society Celebrates Market Hall Restoration

More than seven years of perseverance by Goole Civic Society was rewarded on 2nd April when Goole's restored Victorian Market Hall enjoyed a grand reopening as an impressive food, drink and community events venue.

Goole Market Hall frontage (left)

A new community garden at the rear (right)

The Civic Society began a campaign to save the historic building in 2018, when the market fell into decline, and has worked tirelessly with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the Goole Town Deal Board to see the project come to fruition.

Goole Civic Society committee members John Clarke, Stephen Walker, Margaret Hicks-Clarke and Rachel Walker celebrate with Wayne Smith, managing director of Brew York (centre).

Its new operator is Brew York, a craft brewery with venues across Yorkshire, which intends to make it a meeting hub for the whole community with a variety of street food vendors, coffee shop and bar serving Brew York beers - including a new 'Goole Tide Pale' *(right)*. It will host live music and a variety of community events and activities.

Goole Tide Pale – the town's bespoke brew.

The Market Hall has stood as a prominent landmark in Goole town centre since 1896. It was well used and much-loved by generations of townsfolk but 2018 the town council, which ran the market, deemed that due to decreased footfall and increased costs it was no longer economically viable. It announced its intention to hand the lease back to its owners, East Riding of Yorkshire Council. East Riding was not prepared to take over as operator of the market and its future looked increasingly uncertain.

However, the people of Goole felt very strongly attached to the Market Hall so the Civic Society began a campaign to preserve it for the community. In December 2018, as the market prepared for closure, the Civic Society rented out all the vacant stalls and invited local community groups to use them for a Christmas event to promote the campaign and demonstrate the strength of feeling in the town.

The committee launching their campaign to save the Market Hall in 2018. Guess who was Santa!

We invited people to participate in our 'People's Vote on the Future of Goole Market Hall'. We received 267 responses with all except one in favour of keeping the Market Hall in some form for the community.

Our campaign generated widespread publicity in local and regional media and we shared our findings with East Riding of Yorkshire Council, who invited us to partner with them in a Heritage Action Zone application, which unfortunately was unsuccessful.

Then in September 2019 the town got the opportunity to apply for Government 'Town Deal' funding of up to £25m. A Town Deal Board was established and Goole Civic Society was offered a seat on it. Our first full meeting was in March 2020, a week before we went into lockdown!

It was many months before we met in person again but, through video calls and online communication, we worked on our Town Investment Plan and our key priorities for town-centre development. The Civic Society pushed for one of these to be redevelopment of the Market Hall and we were delighted when the board agreed it should be one of the eight priority projects.

On its website the Town Deal Board stated: "*When Goole Civic Society launched a public campaign to save the Market Hall, it became clear that local people still feel very strongly about the building and want to see it preserved for community use. This invaluable feedback helped to shape the Town Investment Plan that Goole submitted to the Government in a bid to secure a share of the Town Deal funding. The Goole Town Deal Board sees the Market Hall as an 'anchor destination' and a key element of its wider plan to reinvigorate the town centre.*"

Goole was awarded the maximum £25m funding, with just over £4m allocated to the Market Hall restoration.

Margaret Hicks-Clarke, Chair of Goole Civic Society, said: "*We were delighted when funding was secured for the Market Hall and are thrilled with the finished project. Things looked very uncertain back in 2018 and we feared the Market Hall might fall into ruin or be demolished. We were determined not to let that happen. It has been a long road but our faith has been vindicated.*"

Before (left) – the tired Market Hall interior with its fixed stalls.
After (right) – the restored light-filled hall with plenty of flexible space.

Wayne Smith, Managing Director of Brew York, said: "*We're absolutely delighted to be bringing our Brew+ brand to Goole, and what better venue than the beautiful old Market Hall, which has been restored back to its former glory thanks to the Goole Town Deal programme. It will be the perfect place to eat, drink and come together in the community. We're very much looking forward to working with local partners and stakeholders to promote and champion the town*

and all the wonderful things it has to offer."

Phil Jones, Chair of the Goole Town Deal Board, said: *"I know that I speak for everyone on the Goole Town Deal Board when I say that I'm incredibly excited about the reopening of Goole Market Hall. We've always viewed the Market Hall as anchor destination that will play a key role in our wider regeneration plans for the town. Not only has the future of this much-loved building been secured, but I'm confident that it will also be a catalyst for further economic growth, creating employment for local people and boosting footfall within the town centre."*

Margaret Hicks-Clarke
Chair, Goole Civic Society
Photos courtesy of Goole Civic Society

ILKLEY CIVIC SOCIETY ACHIEVES 60 YEARS

ILKLEY CIVIC SOCIETY

It seems just a short while since Ilkley Civic Society members celebrated 50 years with a short walk down to the river on a bright summer afternoon followed by afternoon tea at Church House, our usual meeting place.

Looking back, it seems that many of the issues which occupied us in the 1960s are still current:

- Roadworks for major developments causing very long queues and delays with poor information from the council added to which potholes are still with us!
- Swimming in the river brings high risks due to pollution, although work is now in progress to improve this situation
- Car parking is difficult at key attractions such as the central shops, the lido, venues such as the Playhouse, the Town Hall and access points for the moor.

Ilkley Civic Society came into existence in June 1966. The initial group of supporters simply booked a meeting room at the rear of the Town Hall, appointed officers and a management committee and obtained a model constitution from the Civic Trust. All of this seems fairly straight forward except that it was undertaken in the middle of the 1966 Football World Cup!

The early years were busy planting trees, proposing listed buildings and creating the first conservation area. We are pleased to say that some of the trees we planted have survived - and so have we.

Some successes include-

- Campaigning against a bypass.
- Saving Victorian buildings.
- Listing of 3 buildings, including the Lido.
- Expansion to 3 Conservation Areas but, without Article 4, limited effectiveness.
- First national Historic England Blue Plaque.

Editor
An Article 4 Direction is a legal tool that allows local authorities to restrict certain permitted development rights in conservation areas to preserve their historic and visual character.

This year we are celebrating the cold-water spa of Ilkley with an exhibition of Hydros at Ilkley Manor House and several walks around the Hydros.

60 years is an achievement, however, and well worth celebrating.

For forthcoming events - walks, talks, meetings and subgroups - please visit our website at **https://civicsociety.ilkley.org/**

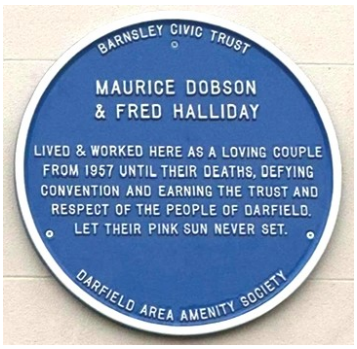
Helen Kidman

Blue Plaques For Barnsley

Barnsley Civic Trust has worked with a wide range of local organisations and people to celebrate people and places in Barnsley Metropolitan Borough with blue plaques.

The *Eldon Street High Street Heritage Action Zone* alone added five new plaques to tell the story of this one, small part of Barnsley: John Whitworth, 19th century town planner; Ann Porter, ladies department store owner; Thomas Lister, Quaker, poet, naturalist and Barnsley Postmaster 1839-1870; Royal Queens Theatre, the town's first wooden theatre and still as Parkway Cinema an entertainment site; and Catherine Mawer, sculptor, whose studio carved the heads on the Queen's Hotel.

Other plaques have celebrated local personalities. On 29th August 2025, BCT and *Darfield Area Amenity Society* unveiled a blue plaque to Maurice Dobson and Fred Halliday on the corner shop Maurice left to Darfield and which is now *Darfield Museum and Heritage Centre*.



Whole groups of people have been remembered and on 23rd October 2024, the Hungarian Consul General Dr L Risko-Nagy along with Barnsley Council, NUM and BCT dignitaries, unveiled a plaque to 200 Hungarian refugees who came to Barnsley in 1956 and worked in the local coal industry (above, left).

We have also highlighted local places. A house on *Agnes Road* received a blue plaque on 26th April 2024 to record that this is where George Orwell stayed in 1936 when researching *The Road to Wigan Pier*.

There are many more stories we have to share. In May 2026 we will be unveiling a blue plaque to commemorate Barnsley's own Dambuster, Flight Engineer Sergeant David Horsfall. David lived on *Commercial St* in Barnsley and was shot down off the coast on the return flight.

You can find out more https://barnsleycivictrust.org.uk/.

Blue plaques are often linked to our regular series of talks, many of which are available online
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbCSGIKEXyrjG6oK5_O88XhY5G23ntTh6

Susan Browne

Photographs from Peter Roberts and the Darfield Area Amenity Society

DESIGN AWARDS 2025…
…PLACE, PEOPLE AND PRIDE

Pontefract Civic Society recently hosted its Design Awards for 2025 where Pontefract Town Hall was packed with guest nominees; in fact, the biggest event in its long history, with awards being presented by returning guest speaker, Cllr Darren Byford, Wakefield Council.

Civic Society Chair, Paul Cartwright gave a brief welcome before handing over proceedings to Planning Group Coordinator, Canon Andrew Sage, who said *"These awards are about more than buildings. They are about place, people, and pride. Pontefract is a town with a rich architectural heritage – from medieval structures and historic yards to modern civic buildings and new residential developments. How we care for, adapt, and design our buildings today shapes how future generations will experience the town. The Pontefract Civic Society Design Awards recognise projects that respect our past, serve present needs, and contribute positively to the town's future."*

The civic society presented the Countess of Rosse Façade of the Year award to Taylored Holmes for a strong contemporary design enhancing the shop frontage on a busy artery through the town.

Christine Peacock, Taylored Holmes said *"We are delighted and honoured to have been awarded Facade of the Year 2025. Restoring the much-loved Tordoff's shop with the respect it deserved has been hard work, but amazing at the same time. We are proud to have retained its warm homely character which it deserves. This award means the world to us and reflects our commitment to the building and Pontefract. We extend our sincere thanks to the civic society for recognising our efforts and hard work."*

Other awards presented on the night were:

- Residential Award and Improvement Award – Priestbridge Cottage, Mayor's Walk
- Special Commendation – The Cube, New College, and House of Ales
- Regeneration Award – The Elizabeth Love Museum

- Heritage Award – The Counting House
- Commercial/Civic Award – Fairwood Fields Care Home
- Environmental Sustainability Award – Fairwood Fields Care Home, and Carleton High School

Cllr Darren Byford thanked Paul Cartwright for showing leadership in Pontefract for achieving the King's Award for Voluntary Service, supported a group of active volunteers, and in congratulating the winners, he went onto say, "*The town is very lucky to have a very active civic society that does more than many other similar societies.*"

At the close of the event, Paul Cartwright congratulated all the winners, and Canon Andrew Sage went on to thank both Paul and Christine Cartwright for everything they have done for the civic society over the years, not least in managing the design awards.

Paul Cartwright

Ceremony Photographs: Courtesy of Medlock Photography

PONTEFRACT CIVIC SOCIETY

PONTEFRACT SCHOOLS' LITTERING POSTER CAMPAIGN

Seven primary schools in Pontefract joined in the annual poster campaign run by Pontefract Civic Society during Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean campaign.

Civic society members judged the entries and picked one winner from each school with a trophy and a certificate going to each winner. A participant's certificate was issued to schools for them to present to all pupils.

The competition and ceremony was organised by the outgoing chair, Paul Cartwright.

Paul Cartwright

Future Events/Dates In 2026/2027

Sat 11th July - YHACS Summer Members' Meeting hosted by Beverley Civic Society.

Sat 17th October - YHACS Autumn Members' Meeting - in Goole.

Sat 30th January - Annual General Meeting - in Harrogate.

NEXT YHACS MEETING

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL 1.00 – 4:00 PM

MEMBERS' MEETING AT THE POINT,

16 SOUTH PARADE, DONCASTER DN1 2DR

GUEST SPEAKERS

TONY WRIGGLESWORTH – ACTING CHAIR OF DONCASTER CIVIC TRUST

DUNCAN ROBERTSHAW - CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE POINT

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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.

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