



PONTEFRAC  
CIVIC SOCIETY



# PONTEFRAC VOICE



  
heritage open days



# CHAIR'S REPORT

Having recently been away for two weeks for a much needed holiday, my report is slightly shorter than usual, though much of my time since the last issue of Ponte Fract Voice was devoted to our heritage activities.

## TRUSTEE WANTED

Based on the AGM elections, we are on the lookout for men and women of all ages to help provide direction for Ponte Fract Civic Society whilst remaining true to our constitutional objectives.

This does mean we are several trustees light. So, whether you have a specific interest in the areas of work below, or you just want to engage with other trustees in moving the civic society and the town forward, do get in touch.

Specific roles:

- Honorary Secretary
- Talks & Tours Group Coordinator
- Heritage Group Coordinator
- Heritage Group Administrator
- Futures Group Coordinator (this focuses on our own strategy, governance, technology)
- Business Group Coordinator

If you care about Ponte Fract and what we do to make Ponte Fract a better place, then become a charity trustee. Contact Paul Cartwright for a chat.



## QUARTERLY PONTEFRAC T MEETING WITH WAKEFIELD COUNCIL

On 2 October, Phil Cook and I met in Wakefield with elected members and a number of senior managers from relevant departments.

There remains much on a Ponte Fract Action Plan which remains unfunded and unresourced.

Here's what we did learn:

- Horsefair 'Streets for People' – completion due March 2026
- Horsefair House – Vico Homes are not interested in taking this asset
- Horsefair Flats – Vico Homes phase 1 demolition completion by Dec 2025
- Purple Flag report – had not been shared with us



Vico Homes phase 1 demolition

- Arts Council funding – awaiting announcement
- No response to town hall matters (cupola, general maintenance, and proposal for use of the Safe Space)
- Towns & City team business support event to run in Ponte Fract
- Design Codes consultation report due 20 Nov
- Former swimming pool site sold subject to contract for roadside retail use



- No news on former Harratt's site planning application
- Streetscene department is now split into two teams (Environmental Services and Street Cleaning)
- A debate took place on the risks of planning applications for apartments being approved which end up as HMOs
- Potential for 100 homes on former hospital site
- Improvements to Ponte Fract Park highways approach to Huggamug to be discussed by Ponte Fract Park Steering Group (on which we are not represented). Also, Jubilee Wood sign promised
- Friarwood Valley Gardens walls and railing raised for discussion again
- Pedestrian precinct bollards 'go live' sometime in November, though Beastfair remains incomplete
- Traffic speeds around the immediate vicinity of the town centre discussed (Jubilee Way and highways with stone setts)
- Highways lack of gully clearance; this is part of a districtwide 3-year plan
- Buddleia growing from buildings
- St Giles Church clock – to be followed up
- Travellers illegally occupying land near Squash Club
- Town Hall union flag to be replaced

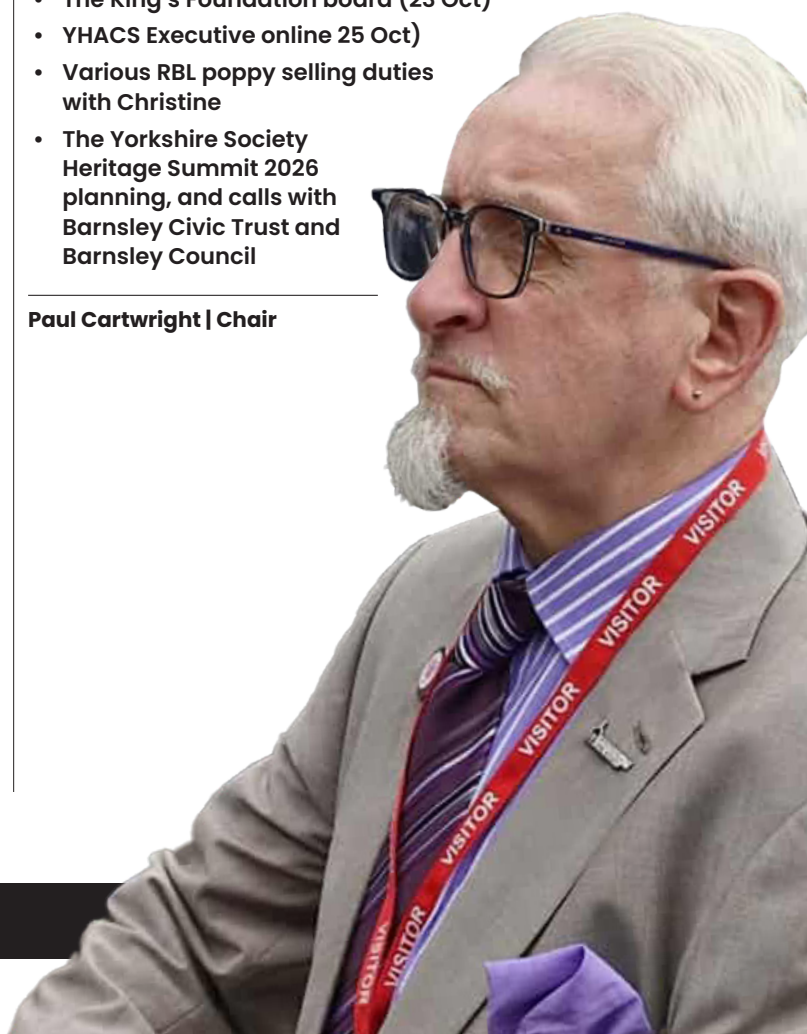


Display cabinet in the library which showcases the King's Award for Voluntary Service and our other activities.

## DIARY OF A CHAIR

- Wakefield Council Heritage Network at Pontefract Castle (11 Sept)
- Heritage Open Days (12-21 Sept)
- Talk: Aquabox (16 Sept)
- Ilkley U3A Heritage Day in Pontefract (18 Sept)
- Carleton High School new block official opening with Phil Cook (26 Sept)
- Friday Revival – Farmer Copley's – successful fundraiser for PoW Hospice with 8 members (26 Sept)
- Featherstone Male Voice Choir Celebration of Singing with other members volunteering (4 Oct)
- Met Fr Ian Bullock (25 Sept)
- NOVA Trustee Diversity workshop, Wakefield (30 Sept)
- Wakefield Council officers & councillors with Phil Cook (2 Oct)
- Prince of Wales Hospice Club 5 (17 Sept)
- Pontefract Library's 50th Birthday with the town crier (23 Sept)
- Mike Skidmore's funeral (29 Sept)
- Wakefield Civic Society Rail blue plaque event with our stall supported by Peter Cookson and John Turner (2 Oct)
- St Giles School heritage tour of the town hall with Phil Cook (21 Oct)
- Society Social; Kyte, Darrington (21 Oct)
- Talk: Women of the Skies (21 Oct)
- 2 Design Award 2025 site visits (23 Oct)
- The King's Foundation board (23 Oct)
- YHACS Executive online 25 Oct)
- Various RBL poppy selling duties with Christine
- The Yorkshire Society Heritage Summit 2026 planning, and calls with Barnsley Civic Trust and Barnsley Council

Paul Cartwright | Chair



# VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

## AED - LARKS HILL AND OTHER NEWS

Since last year when we ran the AED fundraising project, we are pleased to announce that the defibrillators have been deployed a total of 30 times so far this year.



A deployment doesn't mean used, it means deployed if needed as a precaution. Fortunately, they haven't been used once but have been there if needed. The table give details of activity for each one. In September I arranged for Larks Hill School to be used for the latest awareness session which was run by YAS for the Larks Hill residents. The event saw 28 residents attend along with Alan Thistlewood (is this spelling correct) who is the Larks Hill scheme co-ordinator. Alan and I are looking to install a second defibrillator if a suitable location can be found in the Larks Hill area.



## BREAST CANCER SUPPORT

I attended a wedding last October in Bawtry where I was surprised to see bras hanging out in the street and in shop windows.



I found out that it was to raise awareness for "Pink October" the Breast Cancer support organisation; the light bulb went on as I realised that working with the Decoration Squad this could be something that would be put to good effect in Pontefract. I then approached Rachael Brown who runs

"Pontefract & District Breast Cancer Support Group" (one of our community group members) and the idea was pitched; Rachael agreed it would be beneficial for the group to be involved (especially as there are family members in the group) and a plan was made.



A Facebook page was set up to coordinate collection points for the bras, and I attended a couple of the group's meetings showing how to fasten the bras together to make them into bunting, also how to mount the flags onto the poles that the Decoration Squad would provide. The bras were collected and connected together ready for the day to mount

them. Chris Taylor, MD of Tracked Spider Solutions, one of our business members and also part of the Decoration Squad was asked to help to gain the height needed allowing for delivery wagon clearance. Rachael then coordinated her group members and husbands to meet with Chris and I to make Pontefract pink! Some of the group members continued to decorate over the following days, ensuring every available space was covered.

We're sure you will agree it has made an impact and raised everyone's awareness about breast cancer, with the town and group being featured on radio and in other media. Only one question remains, what happens next year?

# SOCIETY SOCIALS

On Friday 26th September, eight of our members attended a charity event at Farmer Copleys, organised by The Friday Revival business network in aid of The Prince of Wales Hospice.



With wood fired pizzas, dancing, and Joseph O'Brien entertaining us, it was a perfect way to end the week and a wonderful example of community spirit.



Our monthly socials continued with a lunch at The Kyte Coffee Lounge in Darrington on Tuesday, 21st October. The service was excellent and as always, there was a good conversation around the table.



Karen Haddock

## BUSINESS NEWS

### ridley&hall solicitors

**Ridley & Hall are an award-winning firm of solicitors, based in Yorkshire but with a national profile.**

In 2019, Ridley & Hall acquired Bashforth Young Solicitors in South Elmsall and secured their first office in the Pontefract area. The team at South Elmsall offers specialist services in Property, Family Law & Divorce, kinship, Wills & Probate, and Contentious Probate.



Ridley & Hall joined the civic society on 16 April 2024 as a silver business member, team members have supported our talks programme and society socials, and we continue to support their lead in the Friday Revival business network fundraising for The Prince of Wales Hospice.

On hearing our King's Award for Voluntary Service announcement, Adam Fletcher, Business Development & IT Director said,

*"This is fantastic news and very much deserved! I don't think the residents fully appreciate the significant impact the civic society has had on shaping a better Pontefract. Please pass on my heartfelt thanks to all the committee".*

## MEMBERSHIP

### Welcome our new members:

- Sean & Fiona Gaffney
- Marjorie Webster
- The Elizabeth Love Museum - Community Group

It couldn't be simpler to **JOIN** online and there's no renewal needed until **1 Jan 2027**:

<http://www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/product-category/membership/>

### Potential Business Members

Our member offer is on the website, though if you wish to talk to us first, do please get in touch.

# OTHER BUSINESS NEWS

**It's not unusual in Pontefract that when one business closes another one opens, which we've not updated you on since our November 2024 issue of Pontefract Voice.**

For those people on social media who say that Pontefract is dead, we'd suggest otherwise.

Here's a list of known changes, work in progress, and some sites which have yet to find new uses:

- **Glow Up, Gillygate** – moved across the street
- **The Drunken Fungus, Market Place** (former Printer's Draft)
- **Barclay's Bank, Market Place** – thankfully, building owner withdrew HMO application replaced with retail and apartments
- **The Liquorice Bush, Market Place** – internal refurbishment planned
- **Bodycare, Market Place** – closed down
- **Cardzone, Market Place** closed down
- **WH Smith's, Market Place** rebranded as T J Jones
- **House of Ales, Maud's Yard** (moved from indoor market hall)
- **RSPCA charity shop, Salter Row** – now open.
- **Specsavers, Salter Row** moved to larger premises



- **Clothing/school wear** (moved from indoor market hall)
- **WF8 Retail Outlet, Front Street** (Magistrates Market rebranded)
- **The Old Galley Kitchen, Front Street** (Lush Bakery rebranded under new ownership)
- **Ink Kingz tattoo studio** expanded into Liquorice Way

- **Knight's fish & chip shop, Horsefair** – under new ownership

## KNIGHTS Fisheries

- **Former Kiko's, Front Street/Stuart Road** – now demolished awaiting planning application for retail and apartments
- **Former Harratt's Site, Front Street** – we await an outcome to the retail and takeaway planning application upon which we raised on a number of issues (highways, deliveries, and takeaway)
- **Jasper's Bar, Cornmarket** (former Barley Mow Hotel)
- **Ponty Tavern, Cornmarket** – for sale
- **Bar Liquid, Shoemarket/Cornmarket** – for sale
- **Playhouse Pixel** – stopped taking bookings.
- **Beastfair Vaults, Beastfair** (new tenant)
- **Fract, Ropergate** – work in progress (former Store 21)
- **Bubblenash, Beastfair** – open
- **Galileo Showbar, Ropergate** – in administration. Work on site.
- **Retro, Ropergate** – work in progress (former Signature)
- **Former Smart Choice, Ropergate** – work in progress
- **Taylor Holmes** moved from Liquorice Way to Jubilee Way – new site (ex-Tordoff's)
- **Mumbai of Pontefract, Town End** – work in progress (former Southgate Indian)
- **Fairwood Fields Care Home, Wakefield Road** – recent public open day
- **Pontefract Mini Market, Horsefair** (former Golden Ball) – signage added without permission now removed, thankfully, and premises To Let, again
- **House of Rose** moved from Halfpenny Lane to Mill Hill Lane
- **Jow Music** moved from Market Place to Wakefield Road
- **Media Security** moved from Market Place to Wakefield Road
- **The Warehouse bar, Harropwell Lane** – application approved

# JUNIOR CIVIC SOCIETY

Phil Cook, Paul Cartwright and Karen Haddock had the pleasure of welcoming 80 pupils in three back-to-back groups for a tour of Pontefract Town Hall and Assembly Rooms.



We covered the history of the building, including local government, justice, and of course Admiral Lord Nelson. It was a great day and we hope the children enjoyed it. For more information, please contact me. Fees by negotiation.



## NEW TEACHING BLOCK AT CARLETON HIGH SCHOOL

Paul Cartwright and Phil Cook were pleased to attend the opening ceremony and site tour on Fri 26 Sept of the new teaching block at Carleton High School, which was officially opened by Yvette Cooper, MP.



With the exception of sport, music and drama, all other subjects have now moved location from the previous collection of temporary and permanent buildings into this new state of the art eco-designed block with the support of the Department for Education.

Before the ceremony and tour, we heard from a series of speakers, Julian Appleyard (Pontefract Academies Trust CEO), Shaheen Shariff (Head), plus representatives from the lead contractor Morgan Sindall.



The project is a true investment in the community of students and staff.

## WORKING GROUP REPORTS

# HIGHWAYS GROUP

**Although now a small group we continue to meet in advance of an on-line meeting in November with Wakefield Council Transportation officers.**

Council Transportation officers.

The following current highway issues are ones which the group have been considering:

- **The South Featherstone Link Road** – This is a long-term project with pressure to allow access to South Featherstone for housing development and the need to relieve traffic congestion through Featherstone. Current work is progressing on a southern link road between the War Horse and the Crematorium.
- The West Yorkshire Combined Authority A639 **Leeds to Pontefract Corridor Improvement scheme** including the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Pontefract Park entrance and improved cycle routes in the park will not be delivered until 2027.
- With the change of builder, we await the start on house building on the former **Parkside Hotel** site, including the provision of the agreed roundabout access off the A639.
- **Wakefield Council Streetscene** scheme in Pontefract Park is completed with the redesign of the roundabout and improvements to the access road to the central car park, which has been closed because of problems with the racetrack crossing.
- The implementation of **'The Streets for People'** scheme in Horsefair is well underway with Finkle Street now one way and Vico homes have demolished the Horsefair flats. We will be monitoring the effects of this scheme as it progresses.



- The Harworth Estates have indicated that there is no intention to provide a disabled friendly pedestrian link between the **Prince of Wales Park** housing development and the footpath to Colonels Walk.



- Work is underway to replace the **rising bollards** which protect the town centre traffic-free precinct.
- The Highways Agency have confirmed that the roadworks on the **A1 and Went Edge Road bridge** should be complete by mid-December.



- We will monitor the effects of current house building which is well underway on Skinner Lane and between Hardwick Road and Ackworth Road.
- Concern remains about the adverse effects on traffic on Park Road caused by visitors to McDonalds.

**Our Group will continue to meet regularly, and we welcome the continuing relationship with WMDC Council officers.**

**We would be pleased to welcome anyone who is interested in joining us.**

Anthony Dee – Highways Group Coordinator

# RAIL GROUP

**The Rail Group continues to meet about every six or seven weeks.**

We have successfully recruited a new Coordinator to lead the Group. Members continue to maintain contact with Northern Rail, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Grand Central discussing future timetables and our aspirations to improve our connectivity to the wider rail network beyond the County Boundary at Knottingley towards Doncaster and Goole in the East Riding as well as Sheffield and York. In the summer we met Yvette Cooper MP.

As members of Railfuture, group members attend and contribute to their regular Yorkshire Branch meetings, their on-line webinars and articles in 'The Yorkshire Rail Campaigner'. Our membership of The Community Rail Partnership and the Northern Station adoption schemes give us opportunities to improve our stations including learning from other station adoption schemes in our area.

The following reflect our current activities:

- The artwork completed by a group of New College students for display by Northern at **Tanshelf station**, as part of their Rail 200 celebrations, has not yet been displayed. We will be meeting with New College students after the October half-term break to progress this project.
- We have maintained our support for the Friends of Askern Station project to reopen **Askern Station** which is seen by the South Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayor only as aspirational.
- We have continued to lobby for improvements to the service between Sheffield and York through Baghill and are pleased to see the restoration of a Sunday service from December.

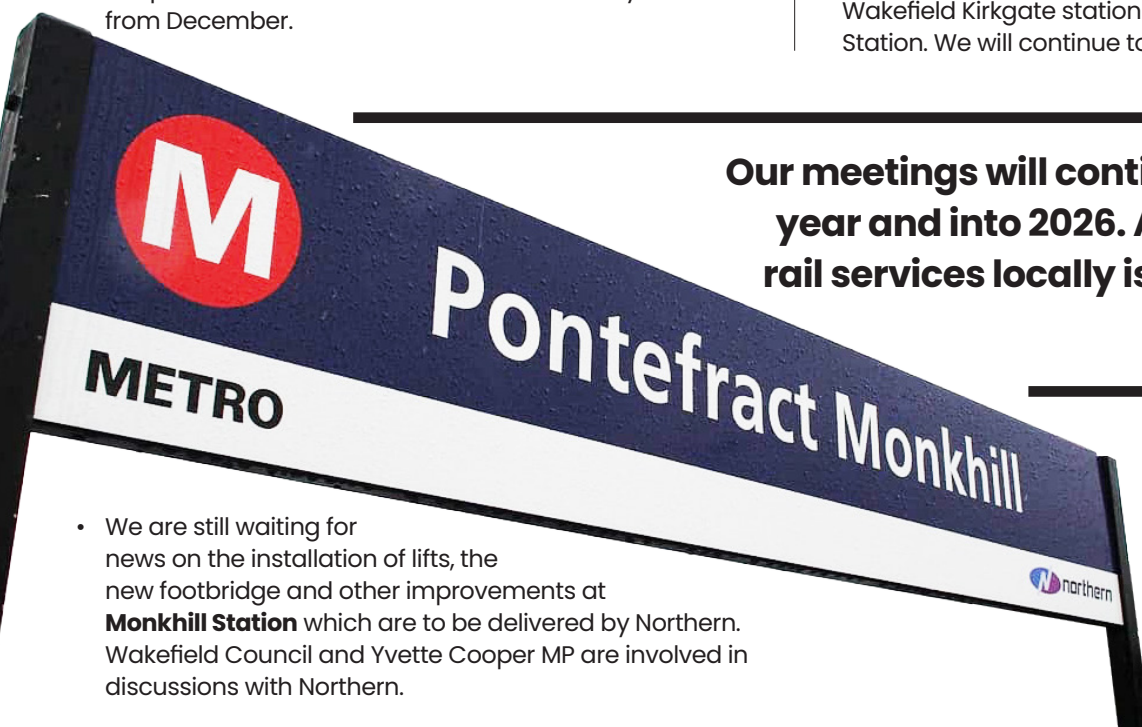
- **Baghill Station Building** – Cllr Mayhew maintains contact with The Arch Company over the condition of the building. We continue to investigate possible funding opportunities but the need to identify a potential user for the building remains critical.



- From December we welcome the improvements to Grand Central journeys calling at Monkhill including on Sundays. Regrettably, this comes with the loss of the day return facility to London on Saturdays.



- As part of our wish to improve and learn from other station adoption groups we have met with the Friends of Wakefield Kirkgate station and visited the Friends of Batley Station. We will continue to build on these important links.



**Our meetings will continue throughout this year and into 2026. Anyone interested in rail services locally is always welcome to join our Group.**

**Anthony Dee – Rail Group Administrator**

- We are still waiting for news on the installation of lifts, the new footbridge and other improvements at **Monkhill Station** which are to be delivered by Northern. Wakefield Council and Yvette Cooper MP are involved in discussions with Northern.

# HERITAGE GROUP

**On Thurs 18 September, we hosted 34 members of Ilkley & District U3A – A long but successful day with a whole team effort on our part, and with the support of St Giles' Church (Karen Glynne), Pontefract Museum (David Evans) and Pontefract Castle (Ian Downes). Thanks, too to Nanny G's for a fantastic buffet lunch.**

Here's what our contact in Ilkley said on behalf of the group:  
*"On behalf of all the members who visited the town yesterday, may I offer our heartfelt thanks. The welcome was second to none (we've never been greeted by a town crier before or had an official photographer!) and, as a group, you all conveyed a great sense of pride, and belonging, to a town that you're all clearly devoted to. It was lovely to experience and you've all got a lot to be proud of!"*

If you represent a group or an organisation and you want to learn a little more about Pontefract, past events, the architecture past and present, then please contact me. Fees by negotiation.



## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Data from some partners remains incomplete though I do know that we had over 1000 participants across the 80 events and activities (the vast majority being in-person events). Our programme included 13 new partners and 39 new events.

My thanks in particular to Phil Henfrey, John Turner, Linda Benson-Henfrey and Derek Norfolk.



Paul Cartwright – Interim Heritage Group Coordinator

## FEATHERSTONE ROVERS BLUE PLAQUE

On Monday 15 September, Christine and I attended the unveiling of a blue plaque at the Featherstone Rovers Post Office ground organised by Featherstone Rovers Foundation and supported by Wakefield Council.

In fact, I was a season ticket holder as a youngster before moving on to other more time-consuming activities in Pontefract.

The idea of a blue plaque for the creation of 'Fev Rovers' came to us from Amanda Johnson, co-owner of The Old Grocers who is the niece of one of the founding fathers, George Johnson, and you can read the story about the creation of the club and the Post Office ground with the images on our Facebook page.

We were actively involved in the creation, design and ordering of the blue plaque, ensuring also that Amanda was at the event too. The Wakefield Council funded blue plaque was unveiled by Cllr Hannah Appleyard, culture portfolio holder; this is probably the first blue plaque in Featherstone.

A good event for the club, its staff & supporters, Featherstone folks, and the Johnson family.



# COMMUNITY CONNECTORS GROUP



## HALLOWEEN CRAFT FAIR AND HOSPICE CHARITY CRAFT FAIR

On Saturday 18th October KLH Events ran their Halloween Craft Fair at Pontefract Town Hall and we were fortunate to have a stall where we managed to recruit two dubious characters to run the stall and enter into the spirit of the event!



## CHRISTMAS WITH THE LIQUORICE SINGERS

Christmas is fast approaching and our annual concert at King's Croft is all arranged as below. We hope to see you there, at this increasingly popular event.

# WHEELFEST26, 1940'S ROPERGATE AND LIQUORICE SHOOTS

Plans for next year's events are progressing well with all the entertainment already booked for our 1940's Ropergate which will see the return of crowd favourites Want 2 Jive leading the dancing plus the George Formby Society and others, with Alex from The Old Post Office and Want 2 Jive hosting the stage.

WheelFest26 will see a performance from Encore Theatre Company and hopefully a youth band along with other performers from Little Bellows and Rhubarb Radio hosting the Buttercross stage again. We already have more vehicles booked in at this time than in previous years. It's all coming together for another excellent day in the town centre. We are now looking for sponsors to help cover the costs of this event; we have various packages available from trophy sponsor to vehicle zones, to each stage and the full event. All packages come with early bird discounts - for information contact Phil Cook, vice chair [vicechair@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)

Vehicle entries contact:

[events@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:events@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)

Stall bookings contact :

[klhevents@mail.co.uk](mailto:klhevents@mail.co.uk)

Event performers contact:

[vicechair@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)

Liquorice Shoots planning is underway with new characters making an appearance for 2026, some acts are confirmed though we would welcome more.

Event performers contact:

[vicechair@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)

Sponsors contact:

[vicechair@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)

Stall bookings contact:

[klhevents@mail.co.uk](mailto:klhevents@mail.co.uk)

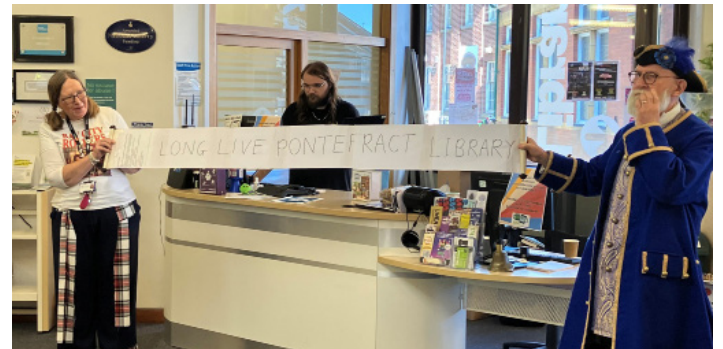


# PONTEFRACT TOWN CRIER

## My latest proclamations were about the following topics:

Breast Cancer Awareness, World Mental Health Day, World Polio Day, The Elizabeth Love Museum, Pontefract Lantern Competition, KLH Halloween Craft & Gift Fair and the PCS Talk 'Pilots n' Petticoats – Women Masters of the Sky'

The proclamations are usually every Wednesday at 9.20am, next to the Buttercross. Then I'm in the library, next to the coffee machine, until midday. Chatting with members of the



public about the proclamation topics & anything else that pops up.

There are cries of "OYEZ!" from the public when I'm walking into town, and when walking home. Just this last Wednesday at 9.20am I was asked if I could have a photo in front of the NHS Smokefree bus that was parked by Boots. When I was there, I was asked if I could do a video too – so I did with enthusiasm & most importantly the NHS staff were happy with the result. Another interaction was with two young people who stopped me on the way home. Asking me what I was doing, I explained & they must have been satisfied because they

thanked me and shook my hand.

On the 4th of October I welcomed choir members & visitors when they entered the Town hall for the Five Choirs celebration of singing.

The following week I attended a retirement event at a local care home. Before reading a proclamation, I was asked if I could ring my bell to welcome the retiree. I did as she excited her car. Thankfully the shock of

hearing the peal of bell ringing did not cause a heart attack as the look of fear on her face was followed by laughter.

Town Crier undercover appearances where I promoted PCS & introduced myself included World Mental Health Day at WX, Wakefield, Volunteer Training at Lupset & also at a branch meeting of the Urostomy Association in Leeds.

## I thank you

John Turner – Pontefract Town Crier  
towncrier@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk



# EVENTS CALENDAR 2025/2026

Scan the QR Code to go to the  
Pontrfract Civic Society website



## 2025

### PCS Talk & Events

### Other Events

#### November

**18** **My visit to the Normandy D-Day Beaches** | Dave Hogg

**24** **Performance of A Christmas Carol**  
Chris Cade

**9** **Remembrance Sunday**

**11** **Armistice Day**

**30** **Lions Santa's Grotto**  
Pontrfract Town Hall

**30** **Christmas Light Up**  
Town Centre

#### December

**3** **Christmas with the Liquorice Singers**

**6** **KLH Events**  
Christmas Fair - Ackworth  
Quaker School - KLH Events

## 2026

#### January

**16** **Wakefield Theatre Royal** | Katie Town

**26** **2025 Design Awards**  
Town Hall

**11-17** **Pantomime**  
Pontrfract Town Hall

#### February

**17** **Tiny Tickers (charity)**  
Linda Atkins

#### March

**TBC** **Community Showcase** | Town Hall

**TBC** **Annual General Meeting** | Town Hall

**7** **KLH Events**  
St Giles Church

#### April

**21** **Just 3 Words (performance)**  
Chris Cade

**7-21-29** **Pontrfract Races**

#### May

**19** **Model Villages**  
Eric Jackson

**22** **Pontrfract Races**

All PCS Talks take place at Pontrfract Town Hall

### PCS Talk & Events

### Other Events

#### June

**13** **WheelFest/1940's Ropergate**  
Town centre

**16** **Performance**  
What's that got to do with the  
price of fish?  
Ray Roberts (magician)

**2-8-21-29** **Pontrfract Races**

**20-21** **Proms Weekend**  
Pontrfract Castle

#### July

**11** **Liquorice Shoots**  
Town centre

**21** **Friends of Waterton Wall** | Barbara Phipps

**4** **Armed Forces Day**  
Pontrfract Park

**11** **KLH Events**  
Pontrfract Town Hall

**12** **Liquorice Festival**  
Pontrfract Town Centre

**7-17-26** **Pontrfract Races**

#### August

**18** **Talk**

**1** **Yorkshire Day**  
Friarwood Valley Gardens

**8** **Friarwood Festival**  
Friarwood Valley Gardens

**5-18** **Pontrfract Races**

#### September

**TBC** **Heritage Open Days**

**15** **World War II Spy from Fryston** | Dave Smith

**12** **KLH Events**  
St Giles Church

**17-24** **Pontrfract Races**

#### October

**20** **The Mobile Police Museum**  
David Hardcastle

**17** **KLH Events** - Pontrfract  
Town Hall - Halloween

**5-19** **Pontrfract Races**

#### November

**17** **Setting Up The Commonwealth War Graves Commission**  
David Jones

**30** **Performance of A Christmas Carol**  
Chris Cade

**8** **KLH Events** - Kings Croft  
Hotel - In aid of the  
Prince of Wales Hospice

**8** **Remembrance Sunday**  
Town Centre

**11** **Armistice Day**  
Town Centre

**29** **Pontrfract Light Up**  
Town Centre

#### December

**TBC** **Christmas with the Liquorice Singers**  
King's Croft Hotel

**5** **KLH Events**  
Ackworth Quaker School  
Dickensian Christmas

# COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS

## FRIENDS OF FRIARWOOD VALLEY GARDENS

Friarwood Valley Gardens was given the prestigious gold award for the second successive year at Yorkshire in Bloom's award ceremony in Tadcaster in September.



The Yorkshire in Bloom judge had visited in July and the report of the visit noted that "The group (Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens) were proud and enthusiastic to showcase

all elements of the park commenting on past achievements as well as recent new initiatives such as the newly erected archway at the entrance to the park and the engraved liquorice poem panel." The report concluded: "Overall, a wonderful green space only minutes away from the town centre which offers a peaceful and usable space in equal measures."

Despite the long hot summer and hosepipe ban, the Friends maintained the flower beds and rose garden and kept them looking good for visitors to the Valley Gardens, and to achieve the gold award. Our volunteers have been active throughout the year with maintenance of the gardens and we are always looking for new members. Two successful events were held in August: our usual Yorkshire Day family gala on 1st August, and Friarwood Festival on 9th August for which all 4000 tickets were sold. Friarwood Festival has been an annual event for seven years, showcasing local bands and also providing an affordable fun day for the whole family. Although Friarwood Festival is not primarily a fund raising venture, all surplus funds go towards improvements in the Valley Gardens. Over the last few years it has funded tree sculptures, a thermoplastic play trail, the commemorative Crown Bed for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and King Charles' Coronation, and this year additional play equipment for the playground. The group also received grants from Wakefield Council's Neighbourhood Improvement Fund towards the costs of the Yorkshire Day event and new litter picking equipment.

## PONTEFRACT IN BLOOM

The summer 2025 display comprised 16 tiered planters, 11 square planters, 33 hanging baskets, and the two Jubilee Planters outside the Museum.

Our decision to use nonstop begonias in most of our planters has proved to be a good choice, providing good displays well into October. Pontefract in Bloom also facilitated the



planting of flower beds in Pontefract Park, Friarwood Valley Gardens and St Giles' Church, working together with the respective community groups. As in previous years, Day Opportunities at Thornes Park grew the bedding plants for us. Day Opportunities supports individuals with learning disabilities to develop their skills to become more independent. The total annual cost of delivering Pontefract in Bloom is nearly £10,000,

funded by grants from Wakefield Council's Neighbourhood Improvement Fund and Vico (formerly Wakefield District Housing) and sponsorship from local businesses, community groups and individuals.

## FRIENDS OF PONTEFRACT PARK

**Friends of Pontefract Park were pleased that the park's Green Flag status was renewed following a review visit in April.**

The group continues with the weekly litter picking session on Wednesday mornings at 10am, and maintains a unit in the foyer of Aspire for opportunistic litter picking. The lakeside rowing boat planters have been replaced by three large raised beds, constructed from sleepers which have been planted with perennials for easier maintenance. The group also continues to maintain the two large flower beds near the mini-roundabout. Friends of Pontefract Park has received two grants from Wakefield Council's Neighbourhood Improvement Fund this year for the costs of planting and the new raised beds.



Colin White - Chair



**Castleford & Pontefract District Lions Club CIO**

**Santa's Grotto**

12:00pm Onwards

£5.00 per Child (incl. Present)

**SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER**

in **Pontefract Town Hall**

Take your own Photo's with Santa

**All proceeds to local charities**

Registered Charity No 1179659

Supported by: **PONTEFRACT CIVIC SOCIETY**



**Ponterfract Lantern Competition**

For Book Lovers of All Ages

Visit **Pontefract Market Hall**  
4<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025

**and Vote for your Favourite Lanterns in our Competition**

For further information visit **Pontefract Lantern Festival Page** or contact:

Tel: 07711 933457 Email: [jinty71@btinternet.com](mailto:jinty71@btinternet.com)

Supported by:  
**Castleford & Pontefract District Lions Club CIO**  
Registered Charity 1179659

**Wakefield Council** working for you



**St Giles', Pontefract**  
Is proud to present

**A Remembrance Concert**  
by **Yorkshire Imperial Band**

on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00 p.m.**  
St Giles' Church, Market Place, Pontefract

**Tickets £10**

Tickets available from St Giles' Church  
Our Online Ticket Store (scan QR Code or):  
<https://st-giles-church-pontefract.sumupstore.com>  
E-Mail: [stgiles.office@cofe-pontefract.co.uk](mailto:stgiles.office@cofe-pontefract.co.uk)

[www.yorkshireimps.co.uk](http://www.yorkshireimps.co.uk)  
[www.cofe-pontefract.co.uk](http://www.cofe-pontefract.co.uk)

The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Giles', Pontefract is a charity registered in England and Wales (1135106)



The Benefice of Pontefract  
The Parish of St Giles' with St Mary's

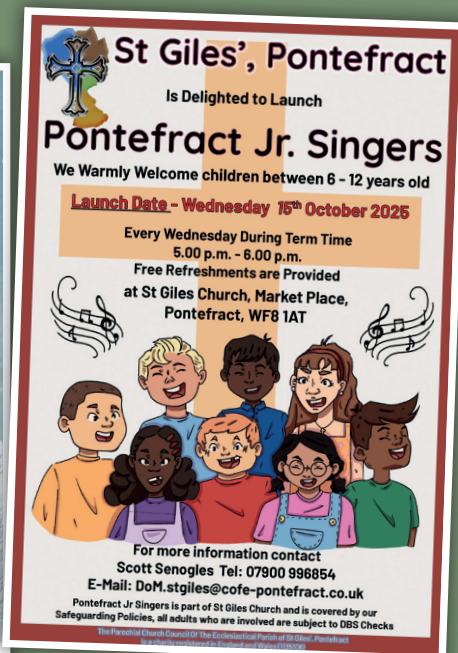
**Christmas Draw 2025**

**First Prize**  
**Luxury Christmas Hamper**  
**plus many more prizes to be won!**

**Drawn in St Giles' Church on**  
**Saturday, 20th December, 11.00am**

Tickets £1 ea.  
available from  
Reception in  
St Giles' Church

Image for illustration only  
The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Giles', Pontefract, is a charity registered in England and Wales (1135106).



**St Giles', Pontefract**  
Is Delighted to Launch

**Pontefract Jr. Singers**

We Warmly Welcome children between 6 - 12 years old

**Launch Date - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Every Wednesday During Term Time  
5.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Free Refreshments are Provided  
at St Giles Church, Market Place,  
Pontefract, WF8 1AT

For more information contact  
Scott Senogles Tel: 07800 996854  
E-Mail: [DoM.stgiles@cofe-pontefract.co.uk](mailto:DoM.stgiles@cofe-pontefract.co.uk)

Pontefract Jr Singers is part of St Giles Church and is covered by our Safeguarding Policies, all adults who are involved are subject to DBS Checks

# WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER

Business, individual,  
family, or community group

# AND SUPPORT OUR GROUPS AND PROJECTS

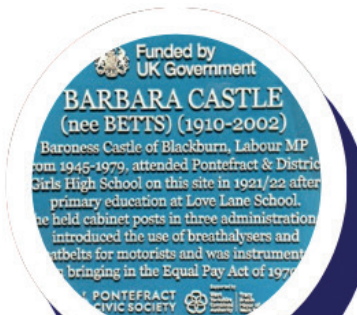
 **PONTEFRACT  
CIVIC SOCIETY**



**JOIN NOW AND RECEIVE 3 MONTHS FREE MEMBERSHIP**  
**MEMBERS BENEFITS INCLUDE FREE ATTENDANCE TO OUR**  
**TALKS AND DISCOUNT AT SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES**



**RAIL**



**HERITAGE**



**COMMUNITY**



**TALKS**



**PLANNING**



**HIGHWAYS**

[pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](http://pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)

**LESS THAN A £1 A WEEK**

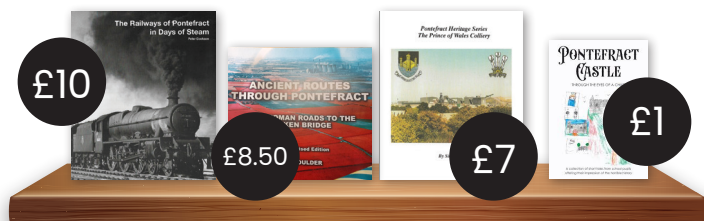
## BOOKSHELF



The J.S. Fletcher G.P. Rhodes Collaboration  
by Roger Ellis

Pontefract's Chequered History  
by Roger Ellis

Pontefract - Celebrating the Past; Looking to the Future  
by Martin Lodge



The Railways of Pontefract in Days of Steam  
by Peter Cookson

Ancient Routes through Pontefract (2nd edition)  
by Eric Houlder

The Prince of Wales Colliery  
by Sir Bill O'Brien

Pontefract Castle; Through the Eyes of a Child



Pontefract: Its Name, its Lord and its Castle

Memorials of a Yorkshire Parish Darrington

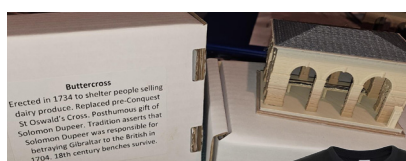
## Tote Bag



## Pontefract Buttercross

For our new model of the Buttercross, mugs and much more check our Online Shop on the website:

<https://www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/shop>



Direct supplier contact for Pontefract T shirts  
<https://pcs.dnbsupplies.com/>

We also have a stock of quality branded pens for just £1.75, and lapel badges at £3. Please show your support for Pontefract Civic Society; let's get noticed!

£1.75



£3



**Our local heritage publications are available for sale online, via email and phone.**

[www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/shop](http://www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/shop) alternatively  
phone: T: 01977 708658 or E: [info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)  
for further information.

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**Treasurer & Rail Group Coordinator - \*Ian Wood**

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**Heritage Open Days Coordinator - Philip Henfrey**

T: 01977 798517 | E: [hodcoordinator@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:hodcoordinator@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)

## DONATIONS & BEQUESTS

**Have you thought of making a donation to Pontefract Civic Society during your lifetime, or leaving us some money in your will?**

Pontefract Voice and our Annual Reports show the tremendous work the society and our members are doing to make Pontefract a better place. To continue our important work, then additional active members are always beneficial.

The civic society is both independent and non-political. As the town's 'watchdog' for the built environment, highways, rail, planning, architecture, heritage, events, business, and public amenities, we can speak on behalf of those who live, work, are educated here, or visit Pontefract, without fear or favour.

We would be absolutely delighted if you would make a donation or a bequest. Both the Chair and Vice Chair are available if you wish to discuss this in more detail.

Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member
				
Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member	
				
Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member	
				
	Silver Member	Silver Member		
				
Bronze Member	Bronze Member	Bronze Member	Bronze Member	Bronze Member
				

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## MEMBERSHIP & PARTNERSHIPS

