



PONTEFRACT VOICE



CHAIR'S REPORT

Being chair of the civic society offers a wealth of opportunities to engage with members, non-members, the wider community as well as partners and stakeholders, much of which is detailed in my item 'Diary of a Chair'.

No matter how long the list is, it remains rewarding in making our charity more effective, and making Pontefract a better place. Why not come and join us?

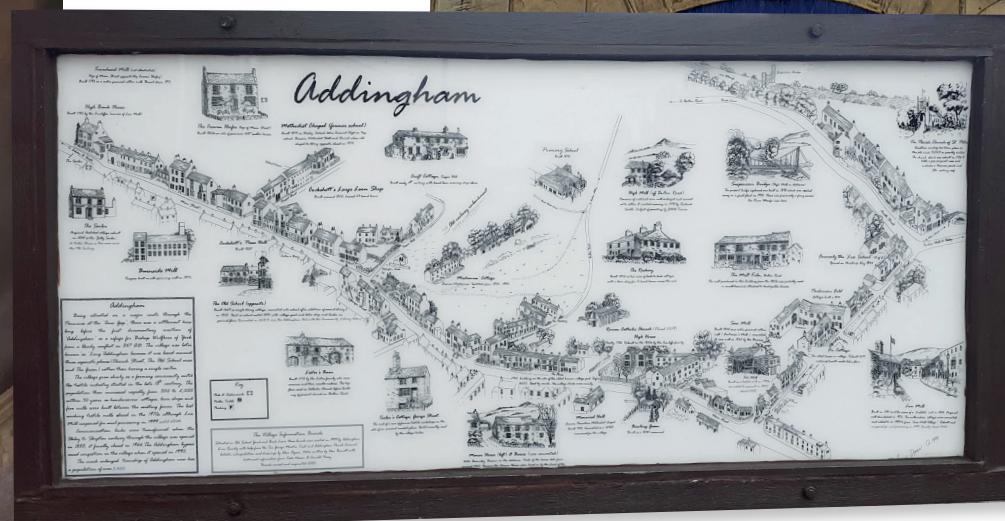
TRUSTEE VACANCIES

We remain on the lookout for men and women of all ages to help provide direction for Pontefract Civic Society whilst remaining true to our constitutional objects.

If you have a specific interest in the areas below and you want to work alongside 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 want to make Pontefract a better place, then become a charity trustee. Contact Paul Cartwright for a chat.

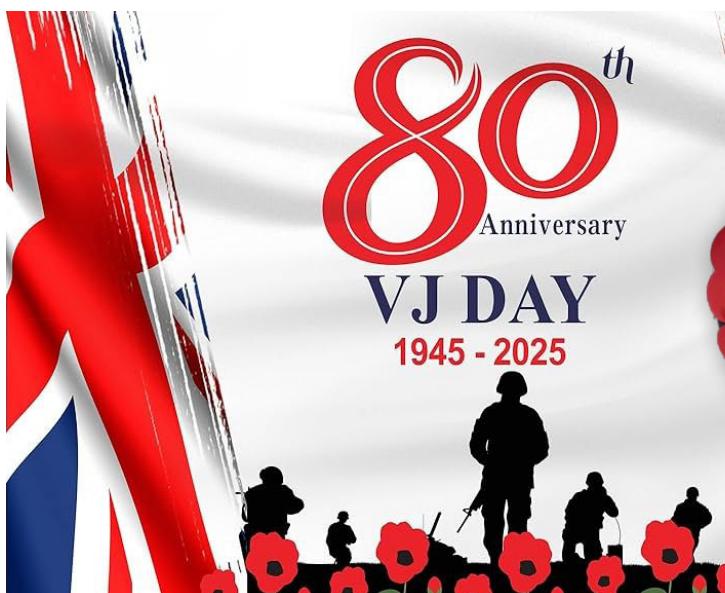




DIARY OF A CHAIR

On top of our own internal meetings and monthly talks programme, and installing a number of blue plaques, the work goes on across the civic society:

- Armed Forces Day (6 Jul)
- Liquorice Shoots (12 Jul)
- Liquorice Festival (KLH Events 13 Jul)
- Hosted PoW Hospice Club 5 (16 Jul)
- Rail Group meet Yvette Cooper MP (19 Jul)
- YHACS in Addingham (25/26 Jul)
- WMDC meeting with planning officers and other civic societies (30 Jul)
- Yorkshire Day stall and town crier supporting Ilbert the Dragon (1 Aug)
- Elizabeth Love Museum official opening (1 Aug)
- Hosting Wakefield Civic Society (12 Aug)
- RBL VJ Day wreath laying & RBL VJ Day Concert (15 Aug)
- Society Social Alley C*zam (10 Jun)
- 'Little Shop of Horrors' production, Carleton High School (9 Jul)
- PCS stall KLH Craft Fair Liquorice Fest (13 Jul)
- The King's Foundation meeting (15 Jul)
- Meeting with Mick Todd, Squash Club & colleagues (23 Jul)
- The Yorkshire Society planning meeting, Leeds (2 Sept)
- Society Social The Hideaway (4 Sept)
- Viewing Pontefract civic painting archive (5 Sept)
- YHACS Exec online meeting (6 Sept)
- Celebration of Singing planning meeting (9 Sept)



Paul Cartwright | Chair

INTRODUCING...

Karen Haddock



My working background was office administration & accounts in the motor trade and then plant hire and sales.

I have been a member of The British Polio Fellowship for 35 years at both branch, regional and national level helping to organise events and socials. I'm the K in KLH Events and became involved with Pontefract Civic Society through our

involvement with WheelFest and Liquorice Shoots.

I'm passionate about everything that Pontefract has to offer for both its residents and visitors alike and as a new trustee, I hope to be able to use my skills in events organising to promote the town and the civic society, whilst contributing to discussions with other trustees, members and local people.

David Hemingway



I'm originally from Pontefract, though my family moved away when I was young. After living outside Yorkshire for years, I eventually saw the light and returned home.

By day, I'm a web developer working on a platform that helps businesses fight financial crime. Outside of work, I'm pursuing a postgraduate qualification in Data Science and AI.

Paul has convinced me that I'm up to the challenge of stepping into Peter Ferrari's shoes. With Peter now enjoying a well-earned retirement, I'll be taking over the management of email—and possibly other aspects of M365—for the civic society.

SOCIETY SOCIALS

Saturday 19 July

Afternoon Tea and Alley C*zam



Thursday 4 September

Lunch at The Hideaway



Our future plans for October and November include a lunch, and early evening meal plus separate wreath making sessions. Our Christmas Dinner will be an evening event on Fri 12 Dec at The White Horse, Sharston

Karen Haddock

PLANNING GROUP

PLANNING & LICENSING APPLICATIONS

June & August meetings

- **25/00980/FUL** – Pontefract North The Lockwood 13 Front Street Pontefract WF8 1DA. Change of use of public house (Sui Generis use) with flat at first floor (Class C3 use) to restaurant (Class E(b) use) and erection of single storey extension to rear. **Neutral**

August meeting

- **25/010176/FUL** – another new bar on Ropergate
The building is of local interest and is on local list and within a conservation area. The owner need to confirm age of the steps to the rear of the property, hours of operation and will there be a roller shutter? The façade should reflect the heritage of the street, and we questioned whether the application covers the upper floors of the building or just the ground floor. **Neutral**
- **25/01170/FUL car park land off Southgate**
Not a change of use, just due to new ownership and change of signage. Will the ancillary equipment be sympathetic to the surrounding area. **Supported**
- **23/01881/S730** – 5 Ropergate – Taxis
We've raised concerns as they have said in the original planning application that they did not want pick up/drop off on Ropergate. Wakefield Council Highways are equally concerned about this narrow corner and the abuse of the loading bay. **Objected**
- **25/00931/FUL 24 Market Place** – Former public house wanting to keep the upstairs as it originally was with lots of heritage features! **Supported**

September meeting

- **25/01568/LBC** – 8 Market Place, the Liquorice Bush: internal decoration throughout the pub. **Supported**.
- **25/00801/LBC** – Rear of 23 Market Place, Santander: rebuild external collapsed wall. **Supported**.
- **23/00800/FUL** – Rear of 23 Market Place, Santander: rebuild external collapsed wall. **Supported**
- **25/01658/ADV** – 30-34 Front Street, Haribo: external signage. **Supported**
- **25/01627/Ful Newgate House**: 20 unit HMO (23 previously refused (24/01132/FUL – we objected) – We are repeating

our previous comments as the slight reduction insufficient. No 'refuse area' not shown. In our view, Apartments of reasonable quality with a reduced number of units would be more acceptable. **Objected**

- **25/01563/FUL 19-21** Gillygate, Jackies Florist (as was): change of use part ground floor residential to commercial though queried lack of internal WC/handwashing facilities in the shop. **Supported**.

Design Awards 2025

We've started to prepare assessments for the 2025 Design Award nominees, and we're revamping the awards evening, so it will be more social and celebratory when we get together in January 2026. If you've not attended before, we'd encourage you to come along.

If members have any nominations that we may not be aware of then please contact me as planningcoordinator@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

Cannon Andrew Sage – Planning Group Coordinator

WAKEFIELD DISTRICT MARKETS KLH EVENTS WAKEFIELD DISTRICT MARKETS

CRAFT & GIFT FAIR

St Giles Church
MARKET PLACE, PONTEFRACT, WF8 1AT

Saturday 20th September
10am 'til 3pm
FREE ENTRY!!!

SCAN ME

WORKING GROUP REPORTS RAIL GROUP

"Grand Central Rail Services from Pontefract Monkhill from December. While the 2hr journey time is good, it's very disappointing that the latest return is 16:25 and a return journey to the capital is not possible on a Sunday.

The timetable can be found online though we will publish it in our next issues nearer the implementation date".

Chris Hyomes



HERITAGE GROUP



JS Fletcher, Darrington



GRAND CENTRAL

"I risk repeating what I've said many times before, although the new timetable for December is an undoubted improvement, I don't think it is as good as it should be. The Monday-Saturday service is only better by one train. The key question for me is: who has decided which trains will run and which won't?

Specifically, the 20:00 from King's Cross doesn't run via Pontefract from Monday-Saturday is a severe drawback, because it means that on no day of the week can Pontefract people have a conventional day out in London, and this only affects Pontefract and the Five Towns on those services".

Peter Cookson – Honorary President

On other items, we await the outcome of a meeting on rail our group had with Yvette Cooper MP, and also Cllr Brian Mayhew has reported to Arch that the roof at Baghill Station requires further attention.

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

Anthony Dee – Highways Group Administrator



PONTEFRACT CHORAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS



A FREE 45 minute taster concert with some well-known tunes from famous musicals and some familiar choral classics.

THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER at 7.30 pm
In the NELSON ROOM at PONTEFRACT TOWN HALL

Admission Free
Refreshments & retiring collection after the performance



PONTEFRACT
CIVIC SOCIETY

HERITAGE WALK FOR WAKEFIELD CIVIC SOCIETY

On 12 Aug, over 30 members of Wakefield Civic Society and Wakefield Historical Society enjoyed a visit to Pontefract where we spent the day being shown round the Market Place conservation area, and a small part of the Castle conservation area focusing on blue plaques.

The day started at the Town Hall and followed by a tour of the architecture of the town centre, visiting the museum and St Giles Church, before walking down to the castle for a site tour. We were supported by our partners in each of those locations, so a special "thank you" to Barbara, David Evans and Ian Downes.

Kevin Trickett, President of Wakefield Civic Society said "An enjoyable and informative day which started in cool drizzle but ended up with hot, bright sunshine. Our visit was topped and tailed by coffee and cakes provided by Pontefract Civic Society and we had lunch at Cromwell's restaurant".

We will be doing the same thing again with similar numbers, this coming week, for Ilkley & District U3A.



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS COMING SOON!

We've curated a full and varied programme with the support of many of our usual partners which will take place officially between **Friday 12 and Sunday 21 September**.

800 booklets are already in circulation at the library, museum, castle, St Giles Church, St Mary's Community Centre and many shops and bars, and there's been lots of social media, which will continue.



heritage open days

Paul Cartwright – Interim Heritage Group Coordinator



COMMUNITY CONNECTORS GROUP

LIQUORICE SHOOTS

Another great event for us and the town supporting by joint working with Wakefield Council, the library, St Giles Church, KLH Events, and local businesses and artists, especially Cartners No. 5.



PONTEFRACT TOWN CRIER

Mayor's Parade & Civic Service

It was with alacrity I accepted the chance to represent Pontefract Civic Society at the Mayor's parade & annual civic service.

On a blustery Saturday morning in July, I put on my best suit & ventured forth to Wakefield.

On entering the Town Hall I was asked if I needed to go to the robing room. I explained that I didn't need to put on my Town Crier livery. Many Mayors were in attendance who did go & as I had some time, I decided it was time to have a coffee with a biscuit or two. Choosing somewhere to sit so as not to try and balance mug, biscuits and bag I sat at with two women who were friends of the Mayor, Councillor Maureen, Tennant-King. They explained that they have occasionally been asked to be a consort when the mayor attends an

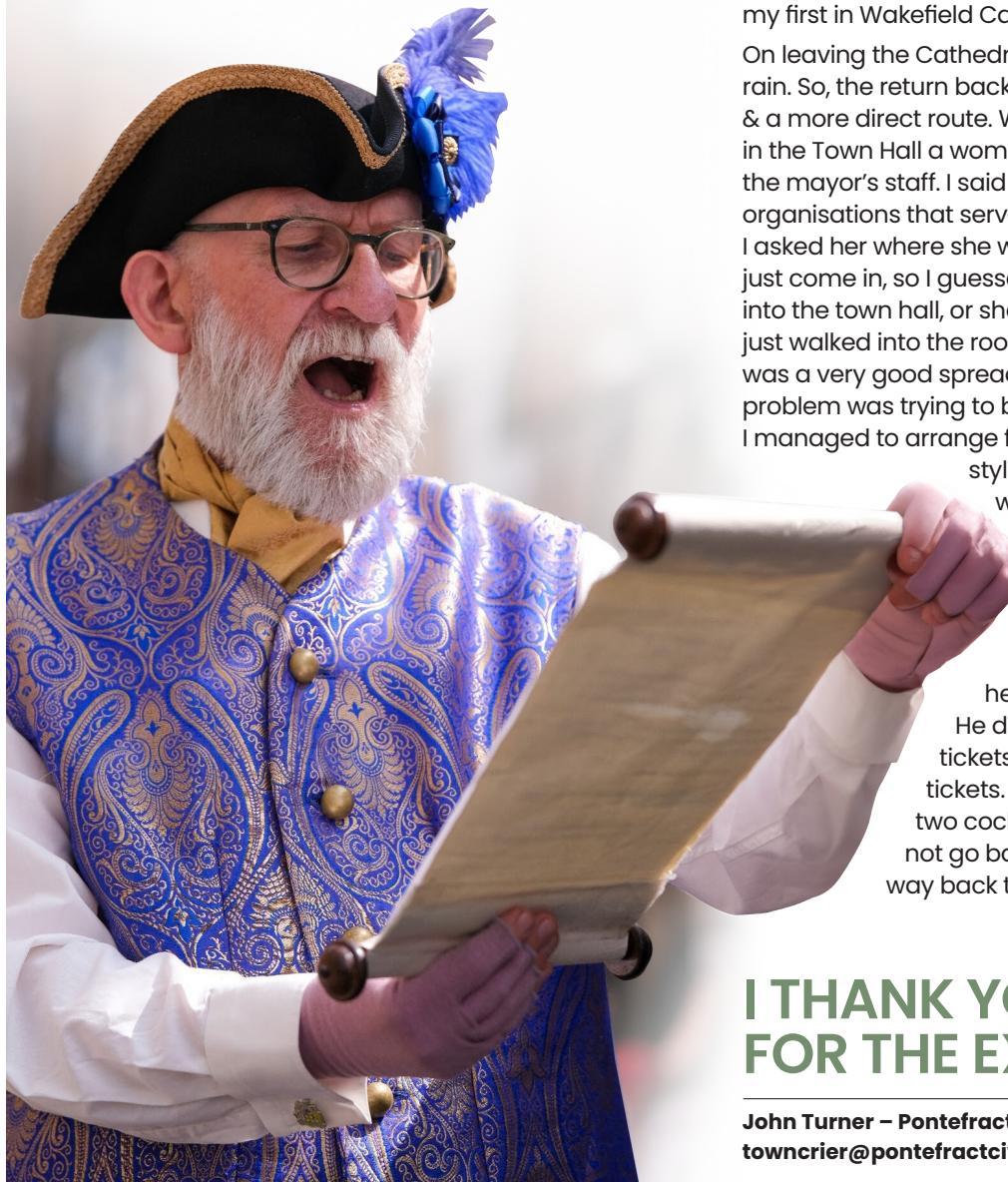
event, deputising for Mr Terry King. Names were called so that we knew where to be in the parade. Pontefract Civic Society was called just after Wakefield Civic Society. When in the right place I had a word with Kevin Trickett the chair of Wakefield Civic Society. I mentioned that I was looking forward to the tour of Pontefract, in August, that Pontefract Civic Society was putting on for Wakefield Civic Society. Thankfully there was only a hint of rain as we walked slowly to Wakefield Cathedral. Children & adults waved to the parade as we passed by.

The service was to give thanks for Councillor Maureen Tennant - King near the start of her year of office as Mayor of the City of Wakefield Metropolitan District. Also to give guidance and blessing for all who serve in public office. The brass band music was majestic especially in the setting of the cathedral. Prayers were said, hymns sung & those speaking did fix my attention. It was a very special service, my first in Wakefield Cathedral.

On leaving the Cathedral we were met with more persistent rain. So, the return back to the Town Hall was much quicker & a more direct route. Whilst waiting to queue for the buffet in the Town Hall a woman asked me if the event was for the mayor's staff. I said it was for individuals, groups & organisations that serve Wakefield in some way or another. I asked her where she was from & she told me that she had just come in, so I guessed that she had followed the parade into the town hall, or she was already in the town hall and just walked into the room to see what was happening. There was a very good spread of finger foods & again my main problem was trying to balance food, plate & drink. Thankfully I managed to arrange food and drink on the top of an old-style radiator.

I started a conversation with one of the mayor's drivers & we spent a long time chatting about Ropergate. When we had finished our seconds the driver wanted to spend some money on the tombola. If he won anything he said he would donate it to the mayor's raffle.

He didn't realise that he had bought 25 tickets & he insisted that I have some of the tickets. On the very last ticket I won a prize – two cocktail glasses. I decided that I should not go back to the buffet table but make my way back to the railway station.



I THANK YOU, FOR THE EXPERIENCE.

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

EVENTS CALENDAR 2025

2025

PCS Talk & Events

Other Events

September

16 **Aquabox (Clean drinking water charity)**
Gordon McGlone

12-21 **Heritage Open Days**

18-25 **Pontefract Races**

October

21 **Pilots 'n Petticoats**
Women Masters of the Sky
David Skillicorn

6-20 **Pontefract Races**

16 **Trafalgar Day**

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**
Pontefract 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

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



All PCS Talks take place at Pontefract Town Hall

PCS Talk & Events

Other Events

May

19 **Model Villages**
Eric Jackson

22 **Pontefract Races**

June

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

2-8-21-29 **Pontefract Races**

16 **Performance**

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

July

11 **Liquorice Shoots**
Town centre

11 **KLH Events**
Pontefract Town Hall

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

12 **Liquorice Festival**
Pontefract Town Centre

7-17-26 **Pontefract Races**

August

18 **Talk**

1 **Yorkshire Day**
Friarwood Valley Gardens

8 **Friarwood Festival**
Friarwood Valley Gardens

5-18 **Pontefract Races**

September

TBC **Heritage Open Days**

12 **KLH Events**

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

17-24 **Pontefract Races**

October

20 **The Mobile Police Museum**
David Hardcastle

17 **KLH Events – Pontefract Town Hall – Halloween**

5-19 **Pontefract Races**

November

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

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

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

8 **Remembrance Sunday**
Town Centre

11 **Armistice Day**
Town Centre

TBC **Christmas Light Up**
Town Centre

December

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

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

**PONTEFRACT
CELEBRATION OF
SINGING**

ACKWORTH COMMUNITY CHOIR
FAIRBURN SINGERS
FEATHERSTONE MALE VOICE CHOIR
LIQUORICE SINGERS
PONTEFRACT CHORAL SOCIETY

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER
PONTEFRACT TOWN HALL
2.30PM - 5.30PM

TICKETS FREE
follow Eventbrite LINK BELOW
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pontefract-celebration-of-singing-tickets-15540814424297aff=oddtcreator>



ST. GILES' CHURCH, PONTEFRACT
27TH SEPTEMBER, 2025
7PM

TOGETHER IN CONCERT...

FEATHERSTONE M.V.C & THE CHANTERELLES

AWARD-WINNING LADIES' CHOIR - THE CHANTERELLES - APPEAR IN CONCERT WITH FEATHERSTONE MALE VOICE CHOIR. 

A CHARITY FUNDRAISER

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:
DRANSFIELDS NEWSAGENTS, FEATHERSTONE
ST. GILES CHURCH, PONTEFRACT
OR
CALL ON 07825 676 174

THIS OCTOBER
Paint the TOWN PINK
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

PONTEFRACT & DISTRICT
BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

DONATE YOUR OLD BRA'S AT

LDC office Stuart road	Affair on Beastfair
Upton slimming world	The Library Ponte
Boutique 38 Ropergate	The Old Post Office
Abbey Bridal Ropergate	Ropergate
Your Space Gym	Harry Styles Mrkt Hall
Pontefract	Michelle's Flowers
Wardrobe on Ropergate	Halo hairdressers
Tooth and Tiger	Pontefract & Ackworth
Red Beck cafe	Supreme Team
Under your skin tattoo	Nutrition Pontefract

**THANKS TO ALL WORK PLACES ALSO COLLECTING
AFTERWARDS THEY WILL BE USED TO RAISE FUNDS FOR
"AGAINST BREAST CANCER"**

THANKYOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**Pontefract
Lantern Competition**



For Book Lovers of All Ages

Bring your favourite story to life by crafting your very own masterpiece

Closing Date 30th October 2025

Judging will take place throughout November in Pontefract Market Hall

f Visit the Pontefract Lantern Festival Page for information on our Free Workshops

or for further information contact:
Tel: 07711 933457 Email: jinty71@btinternet.com

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

Rotary
Club of Pontefract 

IS HOLDING AN EVENING WITH
EDWINA HAYES



Edwina is one of the finest female singer/songwriters this country has produced in years. Edwina brings together English folk, Americana and the rich Northern singer/songwriter tradition to create a sound that's truly her own.

To be held at the Kings Croft Hotel on Wednesday 15th October 2025

The evening includes a 2 course meal at a cost of £35 per ticket.
Money raised will go to 2 Rotary supported charities.

For more details please contact Phil on 01977 704853

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:









St Michael's Church, Carleton
Saturday, 13th September 2025
10.00 am to mid-day
Free Entry
Burial information available
Copy of original plan
Brief History
Coffee Morning

Refreshments with Cakes
Jewellery Stall
Home-made Cake Stall
Book Stall & Jigsaws

Bring your friends, family and neighbours

WHY NOT
BECOME A MEMBER
Business, individual,
family, or community group

AND SUPPORT OUR
GROUPS AND PROJECTS

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

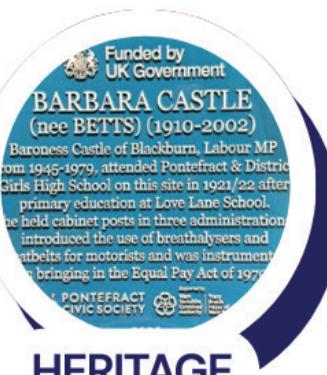
PONTEFRACT
CIVIC SOCIETY



The King's Award
for Voluntary Service



RAIL



HERITAGE



COMMUNITY



TALKS



PLANNING



HIGHWAYS

pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

LESS THAN A £1 A WEEK

Pontefract Dispensary & Hermitage



One to One Development Trust are working with local heritage groups to create an exciting new digital experience to record and share the unique hidden history of the Pontefract dispensary and Hermitage site

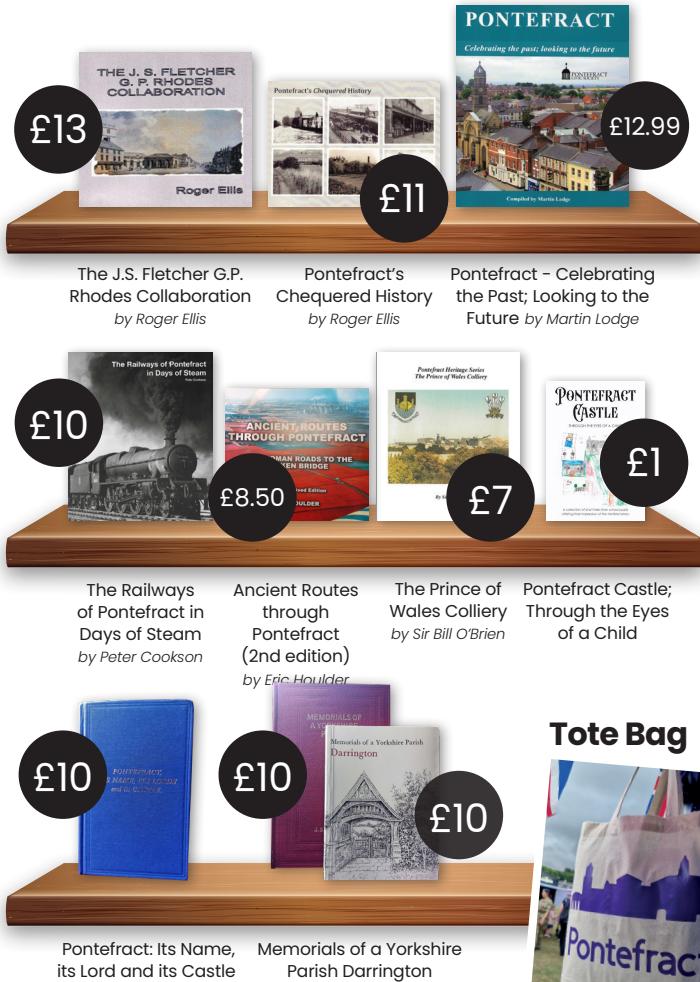
The project will launch at Pontefract Museum on Saturday September 20th as part of Heritage Open Days

Drop in between 11am & 2:30pm to share your stories, photographs or bring any objects connected to the site, and to find out more

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of Wakefield Council's Our Heritage Our Stories project.

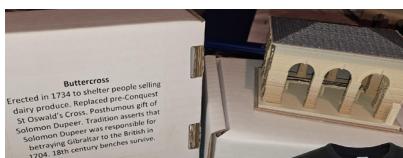


BOOKSHELF



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!



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

www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/shop alternatively
 phone: T: 01977 708658 or E: info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk
 for further information.

CONTACTS *Trustees

Chair & Heritage Group Coordinator – *Paul Cartwright

T: 01977 708658 | E: chairman@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

Vice Chair – *Phil Cook

T: 07931700021 | E: vicechair@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

Secretary – Vacant

Treasurer & Rail Group Coordinator – *Ian Wood

T: 07806 916937 | E: treasurer@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

Planning Group Coordinator – Canon Andrew Sage

T: 01977 610434 | E: planningcoordinator@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

Talks & Tours Group Coordinator – Vacant

Co-opted – *Colin White

T: 01977 795074 | E: whitedrc@sky.com

Co-opted – *Evelyn Westwood

T: 07828 316737 | E: evelynw@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

Karen Haddock – Co-opted to Exec

Highways Group Coordinator – Anthony Dee

T: 01977 701866 | E: highways@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

Board Administrator – Diane Atkinson

E: pcsboardsecretary@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

Heritage Open Days Coordinator – Philip Henfrey

T: 01977 798517 | E: 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
Barkers Fencing		PONTEFRACT PRINT & DESIGN	TRACKED SPIDER SOLUTIONS	
Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member
				
Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member
				
Bronze Member	Bronze Member	Bronze Member	Bronze Member	Bronze Member
				

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Editor: Paul Cartwright

Proof Reader: Paul Cartwright

Photographs courtesy of:

Paul & Christine Cartwright and Phil Cook.

PONTEFRACT
PRINT & DESIGN

With thanks to Pontefract Print and Design for the design of Pontefract Voice

MEMBERSHIP & PARTNERSHIPS



wakefieldcouncil
working for you

THE YORKSHIRE SOCIETY

Welcome to Yorkshire
yorkshire.com

Affiliate MEMBER

CIVIC VOICE
talking civic sense

railfuture

northern

Nova

NCVO

Community Rail Network
MEMBER

CHAMPIONING
VOLUNTARY
ACTION