

# Pontefract *Voice*



# Chair's Report

## Meeting Council Leader and Corporate Director of Regeneration.

Having offered our thanks to the council officers for their support for Liquorice Shoots, the remainder of our one hour long meeting covered delays in numerous projects, such as various highways schemes, Monkhill Station footbridge and lifts project, North Baileygate, Horsefair Streets for People. We also can't have a meeting without strongly raising the issue of failed bollards in the pedestrianised area, as well as the importance that our voice is heard on Highways & Streetscene cross-departmental opportunities for improvements in Pontefract Park.

Our support remains firm for Pontefract Collieries managing a new community centre and skatepark.

We have previously raised the poor use of the Safe Space in the town hall, where we have put a proposal to the council, which hasn't been fully considered and responded to.

Finally, the 2024 Regeneration meetings with departments and elected members, as we predicted, has not worked for Pontefract Civic Society and fails to deliver opportunities for engagement outlined in our Memorandum of Understanding. This point was taken on board by Mark Lynam, and changes are now in hand, as we revert to our own meeting with all relevant department senior managers. We'll report on progress in our next issue of Pontefract Voice.

## Diary of a Chair

On top of our own internal meetings and monthly talks programme, I've met with a number of colleagues and stakeholders in a wide range of scheduled meetings, activities and events:

- Joined RBL for D Day 80 ceremony and laid a wreath at the war memorial (6 Jun)
- WheelFest24 & 1940's Ropergate (8 Jun)
- Pontefract Choral Society concert guest (8 Jun)
- Planning Group Conservation Area leaflet displayed from Civic Day in the library
- Member Survey circulated (6 Jun) – very poor response – 17 received (10 who we don't see, 7 who we do see)
- Levelling Up/UKSPF funded Volunteers workshop in Eastmoor (19 Jun)

- Place-based Indicators meeting with ARUrbanism for the former hospital site (25 Jun, 15 Jul)
- NOVA Mixer event at Wakefield Cathedral (27 Jun)
- Our PR Stall at Armed Forces Day (29 Jun)
- Castle entertainment judging with Ian Downes (5 Jul)
- Visited DC Fabrications to see Friarwood Valley Gardens arch nearing completion (5 Jul)
- Lions Club Lantern Festival meeting (8 Jul)
- Webinar on good PR for Heritage Open Days (9 Jul)
- Prince of Wales Liaison Group (10 Jul)
- Liquorice Shoots (13 Jul)
- Liquorice Festival in FFVG (14 Jul)
- Cllr Jeffery/M Lynam half-yearly meeting (16 Jul)
- Brought Anchormen Jazz Orchestra to Northern Social – 8 civic society members attended (27 Jul)
- Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens Yorkshire Day (1 Aug)
- Council Highways online meeting with our Highways group (2 Aug)
- Sarah Scholes (City & Town Centre Manager) catch up (5 Aug)
- Rhona Crichton/Art Club review Pontefract Art Club designs for our partner Christmas cards and 2025 Calendar designs (6 Aug)
- Allan Blaza's funeral (8 Aug)
- Wakefield Council Delivery Group (13 Aug)
- Civic Voice webinars debating a flurry of government announcements related to the National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] (2 Aug, 16 Aug, 22 Aug)



## The Prince of Wales Liaison Group

- 150 carbon-neutral rental homes likely to be developed in 2025, though a developer has yet to be appointed
- Harron Homes have started to prepare the ground for 127 homes on three parcels of land to the north east of the site, off De Lacy Way 2024-2027
- The long-term council planning officer for the site, Ian Garrett, has retired, and future planning developments will be overseen by Fiona Knowles
- The country park groundworks are now being delivered by Mone Bros with plans to fill the lagoon
- Community Centre discussions continue at a glacial place with the Duchy of Lancaster, CISWO involved too
- £40k natural play equipment in the pipeline, between the current housing and the country park. Tim Johnson, Streetscene managing the project
- Anti-social behaviour on Lake View, off Skinner Lane (and off the development) was raised with elected members
- The next meeting will be in November.

## The Yorkshire Society Heritage Summit 2024

I've also been involved in two meetings (11 Jun, 21 Jun) with the Yorkshire Society to review the successful 2024 Heritage Summit, and the direction for the 2025 Heritage Summit which I will be managing.

The first planning meeting for the 2025 Yorkshire Heritage Summit takes place on 2 Sept, 2024.



For people who love Yorkshire



Paul Cartwright - Chair

## Production Park – an amazing collective

People just don't know what's on their doorstep, and that was the reaction for 20 members who attended a very open and welcoming visit to Production Park in South Kirkby on Thursday 29 August.



With thanks to Jim Farmery, Director of External Affairs, and our guide, Sam, who were most accommodating on the 1.5 hour visit around a number of studios, workshops, and technical areas of this expanding site at Langthwaite Grange industrial estate. Production Park with its partner businesses employs several hundred people on a daily basis, with the head count increasing dramatically on a temporary basis when entertainers and their teams are creating, rehearsing, and filming global touring productions. The site has its own restaurant, hotel and small cinema, the latter having been used by Hugh Jackman to preview the final cut of one of his films. There's also a strategic eye on the future in not just delivering today's shows but training young people from manufacturing to lighting and sound, and production management, to name but just a few of the skills through the various trades and businesses on site. Education and building the skilled workforce of the future is really important through Backstage Academy, and the potential for Production Park to soon become a fully accredited university. The latter will remove the stigma of the former mining area and the label that Wakefield has, of being the largest city in Europe without a university.

It's no understatement to say that this was an incredible visit, and we were all so impressed with the vision and innovation going on just a few miles from Pontefract. Here's some of the feedback:

"Wow, we really do have some amazing places in the District, really enjoyed it". Amy Hardman, Head of Featherstone Rovers Foundation.

"Many thanks for arranging this visit, Paul. We all thoroughly enjoyed it. Very interesting." Maura, David, and James Yates.

Paul Cartwright - Chair

# Allan Roy Blaza

## Obituary

**It was with deep sadness that I had to advise members that our last surviving co-founder, Allan R Blaza, aged 99, passed away in Dewsbury Hospital in the early hours of yesterday, Weds 3 Jul, 2024, following a stroke at home some months earlier.**



Left to right — Mrs M. Calderwood, Mr J. Johnson (chairman), Mrs M. Oddie and Mr Allan Blaza were on Thursday touring Pontefract, noting changes, for the Trust's "Facade of the year" competition, the result of which will be announced later.

Christine and I had visited him in Dewsbury a few weeks earlier, where we also met Hugh, for the first time, Allan's son. Allan was instrumental in creating Pontefract & District Civic Trust between Feb and May 1969, having been approached by a number of leading ladies and businesswomen who had attended a meeting of Doncaster Civic Trust. In his time, Allan was Secretary, a trustee, a member of a number of subcommittees, and a past President. With an interest in architecture and the built environment, Allan had a keen eye for detail. On 6 March, 2012, Allan was made a Honorary Member, for his outstanding contribution to Pontefract Civic Society in a number of key roles over a forty year period. Now, going back to where it all started, he was on good terms with our first Patron, Lady Rosse of Womersley Hall, so much so that she managed to bring well-known people to the civic trust's annual dinners at the town hall. The first special guest was Sir John Betjeman, followed the next year by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner — the famous author of books on the counties. Patrick Moore OBE was next, which coincided with the building and opening of the Rosse Observatory in Carleton, Lady Dartmouth the next year. The most notable was the mother in law of Lady Rosse, Princess Margaret. Allan recalled that the Princess chain-smoked through dinner without engaging in much conversation, and Allan's wife Shirley had the task of ensuring the ladies loos were

abundant with fresh flowers on that special occasion. Lady Rosse also established the Façade of the Year Award in 1975, which remains a feature of our current annual Design Awards; these things were dear to Allan's heart.

Causes championed by Allan included the creation of The Mount conservation area, with his good friend, Peter Dewes, lime tree planting in Woolmarket, and with the intervention and support of English Heritage he influenced the pedestrian areas redevelopment with stone setts. Bringing colour to the town centre streetscape, minimising what he called "magnolia row" was another interest of Allan's ensuring architectural detail and individuality of each building were evident. He loved talking about and showing visitors around Pontefract Town Hall, where he was also a member of the former Town Hall Management Committee, which spearheaded several rounds of refurbishments between 1975 to 2005.

Many more civic society stories were recounted during our 50th Anniversary year in 1969, though it is worth adding that on a personal level, I first met Allan long before my time in the civic society, when I worked with him and for his brother, Anthony, as a trainee chartered surveyor from 1975 to 1979. Our friendship continued across the subsequent decades. The funeral service was attended by past and present members of Pontefract Civic Society, including our Patron, Michael Fox DL. This was a thanksgiving service made even more special with the family tributes and some great singing from Pontefract Choral Society; Jane, Allan's daughter, and his granddaughter joined the ensemble. Allan's late wife, Shirley was a member of the ensemble and Allan was a Patron, so there was a huge family connection. After the service, friends and family gathered at Kings Croft Hotel where further contributions were read from friends, a family member from Canada had flown over, our Chair Paul Cartwright spoke, along with others from Probus, Ackworth & Pontefract British Legion, and Dave Hogg. We heard about Allan's love for his family, and way beyond that to conservation, cars, curling, and country houses.

**Allan R Blaza RIP,  
my good friend.**

*Paul Cartwright - Chair*

# Do you have skills and experience (or a mix of the two!) that would help the civic society?



Would you like to learn something new whilst helping out the Executive run things? We are always on the lookout for members, new and old, to get involved – in a way that best suits you.

From time to time, we get great support to help out with some key

events, such as WheelFest, where a number of members volunteered on the big day in June. Even some help over a couple of hours, rather than a full or half a day, helps us greatly.

Our website and newsletter, Pontefract Voice, highlight the range of activities that we get up to. Our remit is very wide – so we need all sorts of skills and experiences from time to time. Not every task suits everyone – but maybe there is something that appeals to you? If so, do drop me a line – we can have an initial discussion, and go from there. If you are not quite sure, drop me a line anyway! By way of some examples – here is a small selection of activities where we would welcome some additional support, and where you might like to help us out.

## Event photography

This is an ad hoc thing, with no formal commitment in the diary. Examples include the AGM, Summer outdoor events, and the Christmas Shop Window competition. Most photos are taken on phones these days, but we do like to have the 'proper thing' as well. Great photos will enhance our website, newsletters and social media. We are not just looking for a qualified professional – a keen amateur 'snapper' would be warmly welcomed, too.

## Taking Executive Meeting Notes (Minutes)

Ordinarily our Board Secretary, Diane Atkinson, looks after matters here. It would be great to have a 'deputy' to call on, in the event that Diane is unavailable – do you have some experience in this area? The Executive meetings last just 2 hours on the first Monday of each month, and we aim to keep the notes brief, focused on actions!

## Futures Group member

This working group meets as required, usually once a quarter. Its main role is to 'look ahead' on how the Civic Society might evolve and develop for the future. It is not simply a technical forum – all ranges of 'business' and charitable activities are discussed. Maybe you are an Ideas person, or currently work (or have worked) in a similar role; could you give us the benefit of your own knowledge?

Please have a think – I hope that I have given you a flavour of the things where you might be able to help. There are so many areas and roles that crop up as we work through the year – it is not just limited to the above. We are a friendly bunch and everyone is welcome to participate in whichever way they can. Looking forward to hearing from you.

## JUST A FEW THINGS WE HAVE DONE IN 2023-24



Join us for 2025  
get the rest of 2024 free,  
including talks programme

- 1 EVENTS**  
Created WheelFest and Liquorice Shoots, free town centre events benefitting both businesses and residents, while promoting Pontefract to visitors. Worked with Pontefract Castle to create an entertainment programme.
- 2 COMMUNITY**  
Supported various community groups with advice, operational and direct financial support. Offered support to schools with tours and talks about our local history. Decorated the town on various occasions including the Coronation and the Liquorice Festival. Supported the need for a skatepark and bike track.
- 3 INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Engaged with Wakefield Council on planning applications, engaged on highways and rail improvements, while raising the issue of Pontefract precinct abuse by drivers. Monitored development of the former Prince of Wales colliery site. Liaised with markets about rebranding and the market hall refurbishment. Continued to monitor proposals and offer new solutions for Pontefract Park.
- 4 BUSINESS**  
Supported local businesses in planning & highways applications, and advised on planning applications and heritage statements. Promoted business activities and promotions. Presented our annual design awards for regeneration and property. Advised on funding and networking opportunities.
- 5 HERITAGE**  
Created online material showing our town's heritage. Supported heritage research projects. Curated our annual Heritage Open Days programme engaging with partners. Delivered talks & given guided walks to visitors & residents.

**LIKE WHAT WE DO? WHY NOT JOIN AND HELP US DO MORE IN 2025 FOR OUR TOWN AND RESIDENTS**  
[www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/product-category/membership/](http://www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/product-category/membership/)

Peter Ferrari – Trustee

## Membership

### Welcome our new members:

- Michael Barlow
- The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

It couldn't be simpler to renew online:

[http://www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/  
product-category/membership/](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.

## Business Networks

### Welcoming Businesses to Pontefract

The following are non-members are welcomed into Pontefract:

- Lalo Mini Market, Cornmarket
- Ride Star Taxis, Ropergate
- Yorkshire Rose Travel, Market Hall
- The Galway Girl, Ropergate

### Businesses for sale:

- Market Hall newsagents
- Al-Jamil, Front Street
- The Counting House is available for sale or to let

### Changing businesses:

- Taylored Homes are completely renovating the former Tordoff's premises
- The Lockwood is being refurbished, we believe for a restaurant
- House of Ales is expanding
- Windmill pub, Woolmarket reopened
- Bad Bambi, Salter Row closed

## Pontefract Delivery Group meeting highlights



**Dispensary/Hermitage:** Numerous issues to be resolved through Homes England, and the council needs to address the parking strategy before the NHS staff car park can be relocated.

**Highways schemes:** North Baileygate Sept, 2024, Horsefair, 2025, Monkhill Station 2024–2025, though no firm progress on A639 improvements, or South Featherstone Link Road.

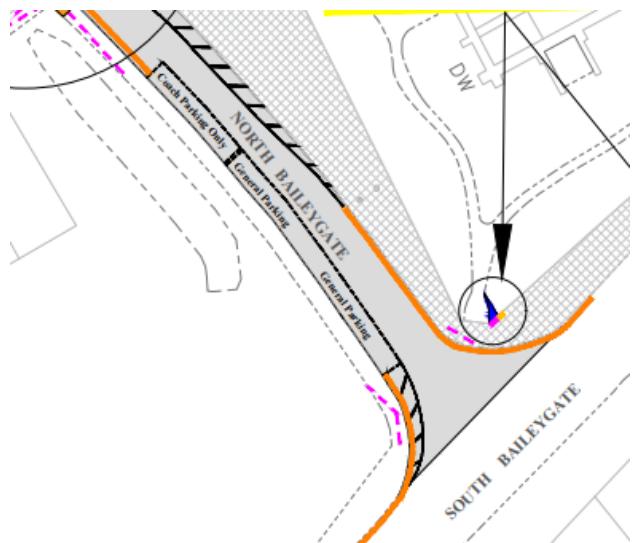
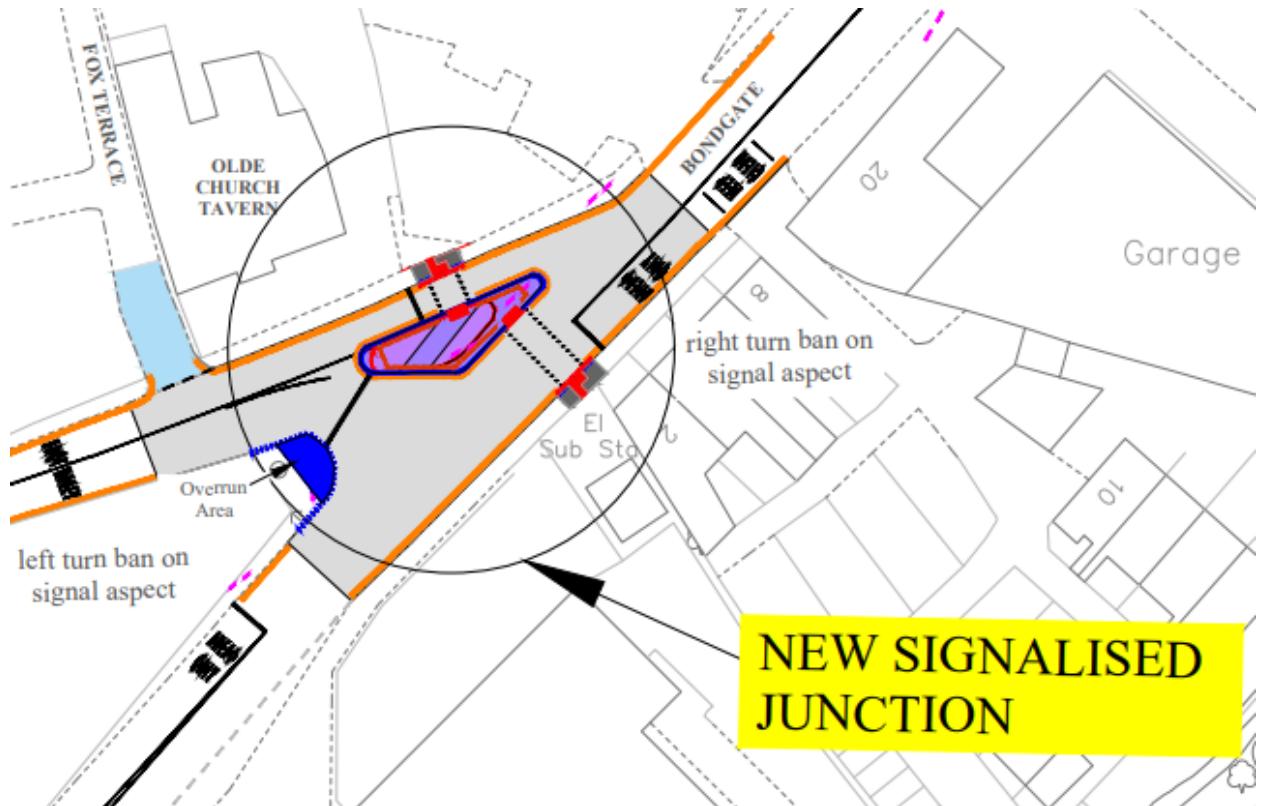
**Businesses** should also by now be aware that the council has extended its £6k shop security grants scheme to town centre locations; monies must be spent by 31 March, 2025.

**Council events** coming include Halloween in October, and a continental food market in November.

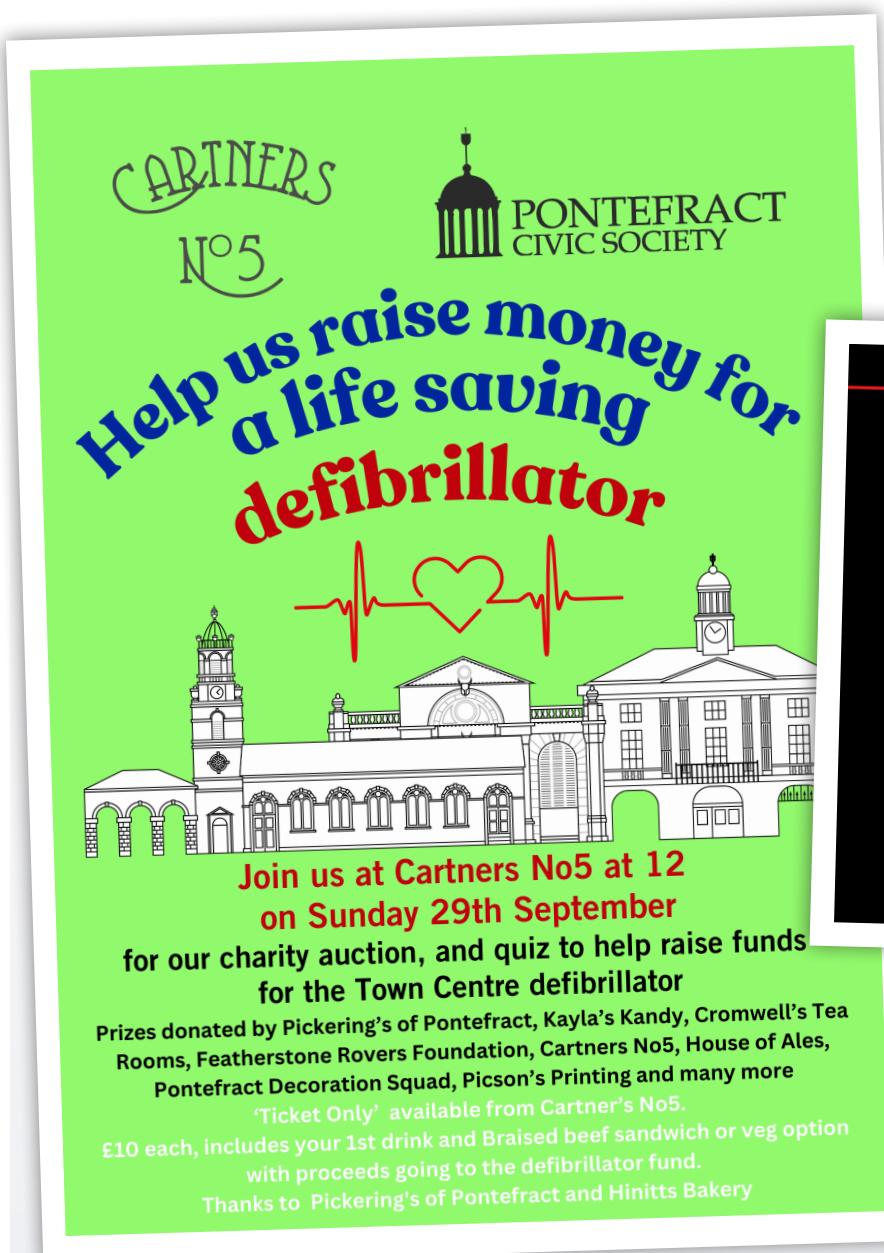
Reports were delivered from six other council departments, WDH, and ourselves.



## The new highways scheme for North Baileygate to start in September 2024



## Fundraiser events at the Cartners No 5 and The Old Grocers Micro Pub



**CARTNERS  
No 5**

**PONTEFRACT  
CIVIC SOCIETY**

**Help us raise money for  
a life saving  
defibrillator**

**Join us at Cartners No5 at 12  
on Sunday 29th September**

for our charity auction, and quiz to help raise funds  
for the Town Centre defibrillator

Prizes donated by Pickering's of Pontefract, Kayla's Kandy, Cromwell's Tea  
Rooms, Featherstone Rovers Foundation, Cartners No5, House of Ales,  
Pontefract Decoration Squad, Picson's Printing and many more

'Ticket Only' available from Cartner's No5.  
£10 each, includes your 1st drink and Braised beef sandwich or veg option  
with proceeds going to the defibrillator fund.

Thanks to Pickering's of Pontefract and Hinitts Bakery



**PONTEFRACT  
CIVIC SOCIETY**

PONTEFRACT CIVIC SOCIETY, THE OLD GROCER'S & LITTLE BELLOW'S PRESENTS

**A.E.D FUNDRAISER NIGHT**

WITH A RAFFLE & LIVE MUSIC FROM  
**MAKK**  
**HERORANGE COAT**  
**BRAD JACK**

THE OLD GROCERS | 4TH OCT | 7PM

**The Old Grocers**  
MICRO PUB  
REAL ALE

## Working Group Reports

# Heritage Group





**Talk: Electric Dreams - Electrifying Change**  
**9th September, 2024 7pm**  
**Pontefract Town Hall**

The Electrical Association for Women (100th Anniversary this year) was instrumental in aiding the programme of the electricity network (what we now know as the National Grid), electricity enabled connectivity, and the EAW was a network throughout the UK of women promoting electricity in the home.

The FREE talk by Prof. Graeme Gooday and Dr. Katie Carpenter (University of Leeds) will concentrate on the Electrical Association for Women and the role they played in promoting electricity in the home in the early 20th Century, in the West Riding, specifically Mabel Matthews.

 [www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)  
[info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)



**13 days of talks, tours, walks and online content**  
**6th to 15th September, 2024**

Over 60 events & activities; our biggest ever HOD is FREE!  
 For more information check Facebook as some events require Eventbrite booking, and some hosts have their own booking systems  
 Talk to the Town Crier in the library, each Weds 9:30am-12pm  
 Get a copy of our FREE booklet for full programme details

 [www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)  
[info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)

## Other heritage-related activities:

- Town Crier weekly engagement sessions in the library (see article below)
- Executive has given 'go ahead' to use some of our own funds for replacement livery for the Town Crier
- Wakefield & District Family History Society AGM (Outwood) – presentation on HOD (6 Jul)
- Wakefield Council funded Liquorice Walk & Map designed, printed and two walks delivered
- Initial meeting in Wakefield with Tegwen Roberts – Heritage Development Manager (16 Jul)
- Talk: Upton Ladies Group blue plaques – 25 interested attendees had lots of questions, and a donation received for our funds (31 Jul)

Paul Cartwright – Interim Heritage Group Coordinator

# Crier John proclaims, informs, listens

## “OYEZ!” is what I hear every Wednesday

As I walk past All Saints Church & then by Pontefract Castle on my way to the Buttercross, I wish everyone “Morning!”, “Good morning, Ma’am!”, “A very good morning to you young sir!” or some such greeting.

Throughout the year I share posts on Facebook, X, & Instagram promoting ‘What’s On’ in Pontefract. In May this year I decided to add something extra to my promotions. Each week since the start of June 2024 I have made weekly proclamations; every Wednesday by the Buttercross, & outside Pontefract Museum.

When I’m walking around Pontefract in my Town Crier livery I’m usually stopped & asked a variety of questions. From “What are you doing?” to “Are you a pirate? Compliments are sometimes given & gratefully received by a thank you, a raising of my tricorn hat & a slight bow.

As well as the proclamations I asked Pontefract Library if I might sit at a table on a Wednesday morning & chat to visitors about What’s On. The staff at the library were and are most accommodating & helped with creating posters and also displayed them inside the library. I remember the first Wednesday in June as my first visitor sat down & we started chatting. I quickly realised that she thought I was a council representative. Councillors were sitting at another table & dealt with the enquiry. I did advise that I am a member of a local charity, Pontefract Civic Society and not a member of the council! The poster produced by the library team to support my weekly visits shows that my role is part of Pontefract Civic Society which champions and supports my volunteering as Town Crier. As well as advertising events, I’m also an active participant of some of the activities, and recently, I’ve attended and promoted Liquorice Shoots where I was invited to be the stage compere, and Yorkshire Day in Friarwood Valley Gardens.

The proclamations on a Wednesday morning have covered a range of events including Pontefract Civic Society monthly talks, Music on a Sunday at Pontefract Castle during August, Mindfulness Mondays, The Hatchling & September’s Heritage Open Days.

From 09:30 ‘til midday every Wednesday in June, July & August I have sat down at my table. The table has a variety of booklets & pamphlets for visitors to browse and take away. Over the three months it has been a privilege to chat



with people who don’t just want to talk about What’s-On in Pontefract. There is a confidentiality, but I do like to know what events they have visited in the past. Then I suggest what they might like to see & do in the future. For the first session in June, I was almost overwhelmed and was listening and talking for all of the morning. Whether it be 13 or 3 visitors, every week is interesting for me & I hope that the visitors have enjoyed our chat and maybe gone away with events that they might attend.

One of the biggest events of the year for Pontefract Civic Society is The Heritage Open Days in September. As well as promoting the daily events I’ll also visit as many talks and tours as I am able. After the Heritage Open Days finish, I will have a few days to relax & then prepare for my next OYEZ. I have a Facebook page for more information, just search for ‘Town Crier of Pontefract’

My email is [JohnCrierPontefract@outlook.com](mailto:JohnCrierPontefract@outlook.com)

For more about Pontefract Civic Society visit their Facebook page.

*John Turner – Pontefract Town Crier*

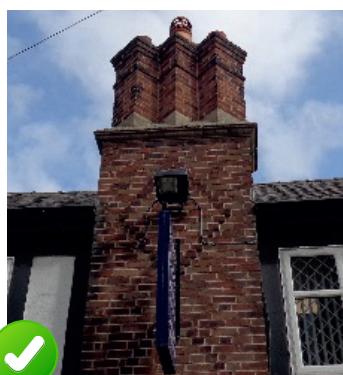
# Planning Group

## Conservation Area leaflet

### Roofs



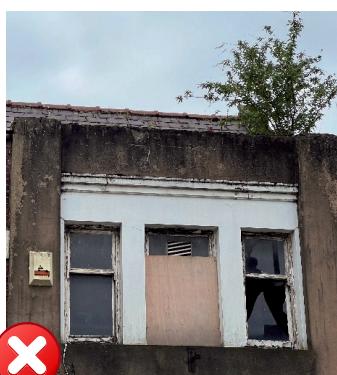
### Chimneys



### Boundary Treatment



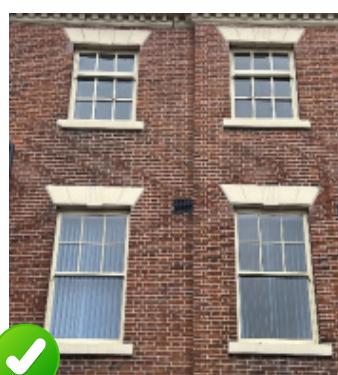
### Windows



### Rainwater Goods



### Brickwork



## Planning & Licensing Applications

### June meeting

- No relevant planning applications

### July meeting

- 24/00903/FUL Pontefract golf club; application to erect a driving range shelter – Support
- 22/01265/FUL land between Ackworth Road and Hardwick Road; 211 dwellings; resubmission – Object

### August meeting

- 24/01132/FUL Newgate House, offices to 23 HMO's – over 400 public objections were noted, though many on dubious non-planning matters – Objected.
- 24/00441/FUL 3 Cornmarket, retail to public house – No further comments, though already Objected.
- 24/01233/FUL Pontefract Park lake, repairs etc – Supported.

*Phil Henfrey – Deputy Planning Group Coordinator*

# Community Connectors Group

## WheelFest24 and 1940's Ropergate Success

On Saturday 8 Jun, we staged WheelFest24, which was a spectacular success approaching 80 exhibiting vehicles, 20 outdoor displays, rides, and vendors, 22 indoor craft stalls, 20 craft and charity stalls around Market Place, and 16 costumed characters on parade led by our Town Crier, John Turner. We hope you enjoyed WheelFest24 and 1940's Day Ropergate.

The 1940's bit was our first trial event, but certainly won't be the last. We have the date of 14th June 2025 for this unique combined event already in our diaries, please add it to yours.

The event was officially opened at 10am by the Cllr Darren Byford, Mayor of Wakefield Council, who toured the exhibits, stalls and craft fair accompanied by our chair, Paul Cartwright, in the morning.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the event and to all the businesses that supported in dressing their windows and staff joining in, but especially our sponsors: DM Auto Parts Ltd, Hannah Davies – Personal Estate Agent, Northern Monkey Tuning, Cartners No5, Tracked Spider Solutions, Michelle's Flowers Ltd, and JS Recruitment.

We also need to thank the members of the Pontefract Decoration Squad for creating the historic displays in Ropergate and our own Heritage Group for the research on Pontefract in World War 2, and all the volunteers. It was also a pleasure to working with TD Events Ltd, who provided a great security team for the first time.

We were fortunate again to partner with KLH Craft Fair who'd moved to St Giles Church and they also managed all our additional vendors. A big thanks to all the re-enactors

that attended plus the displays and vehicles that had faith in us in creating a fantastic atmosphere.

I must not forget the acts and comperes:



Rhubarb Radio, Liquorice Singers, Brad Jack, Joseph O'Brien, Clare Brooke, Want2jive.co.uk, Jessica Poole, George Formby Society Castleford

Branch, Blue Velvet, Acoustic Humans, Russ Ess, Jess Cruise and Altofts and Normanton Brass Band, with a special thanks to DA Dance for the flash mob that we believe is a first in Pontefract..

I was immensely proud of the team-effort and partner support that we achieved in pulling off our biggest community event to date. The businesses on Ropergate got into the 1940's spirit dressing windows and in some case, themselves, the street displays from the Decoration Squad and the stage entertainment went down a storm.

Karen Haddock and Lynne Hartley, KLH Craft Fair, said, "We had a fantastic day with around 1000 visitors coming through the doors of St Giles Church, whom we thank on this occasion for accommodating us; that was 400 up on WheelFest23".

Paul Cartwright added "This was our most ambitious event to date, and in spite of early rain and the wind, the feedback for everyone has been really positive and encouraging. Some competitions on the day were held. Pontefract's Mark Barnes' 1977 Pontiac Firebird Transam won the best 4 wheel vehicle and above, and Knottingley's Colin Ashmore's Rewako RF1 2004 trike won the best three wheel vehicle and below, judged by Castleford Tigers players. Also, young Cameron Johnson won the best recycled model which was a school bus made from a drinks carton. Once again, we want to thank all our business sponsors".

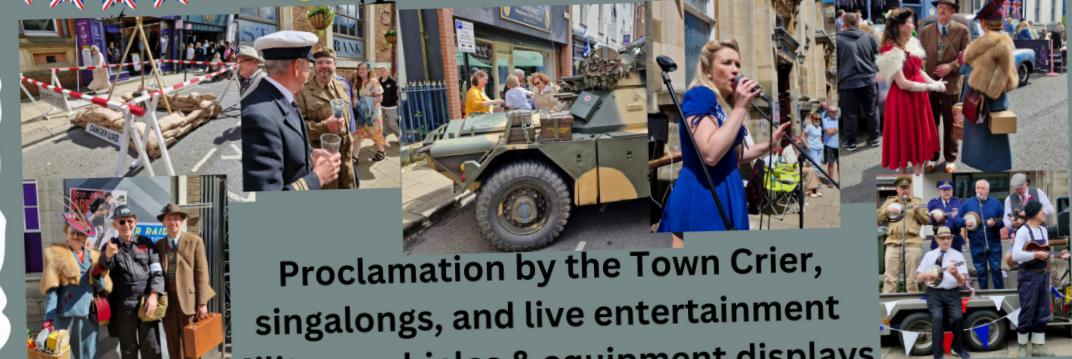
WheelFest25 will take place on Saturday 14 Jun, 2025. Entries have not opened yet, and we believe next year will be bigger and better.

*Phil Cook – Community Connectors Group Coordinator*

**PONTEFRACT CIVIC SOCIETY**

**1940's DAY Ropergate**

**SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025**



Proclamation by the Town Crier, singalongs, and live entertainment

Military vehicles & equipment displays

street dressed, 1940's cafe food, 1940's Reenactors

**CONTACT**  
[events@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:events@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)  
 FOR VEHICLES & DISPLAYS

**CONTACT**  
[klhevents@mail.co.uk](mailto:klhevents@mail.co.uk)  
 FOR VENDOR STALLS

**1940's Day, Ropergate Saturday 14th June 2025**

**PONTEFRACT CIVIC SOCIETY**

**PONTEFRACT WHEELFEST 25**

**A VEHICLE SHOW WITH A DIFFERENCE**

**SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2025**

**IN THE TOWN CENTRE**

**LIVE MUSIC**

**40 ARTISAN CRAFT STALLS**

**CHARACTER PARADE CHILDREN'S RIDES AND MUCH MORE**



**FOR VEHICLES AND DISPLAYS ETC. CONTACT**  
[events@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:events@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)

**FOR STALLS ETC. CONTACT**  
[klhevents@mail.co.uk](mailto:klhevents@mail.co.uk)

**Wheelfest25, Pontefract Town Centre Saturday 14th June 2025**

## Liquorice Shoots kicked off a weekend of community fun

We had a great Liquorice Shoots on Saturday 13 Jul, ahead of the Liquorice Festival, as well as supporting Sunday's family event with Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens.



Our main stage on Saturday in Market Place was sponsored by Farmer Copleys (whom we thank again), which was graced by the likes of Featherstone Male Voice Choir, with an afternoon of music from Acoustic Humans, Why So Serious and Bisto Boys provided by our partner Little Bellows. John Turner, our Town Crier stepped in as compere and we also had the return of the character parade, plus DA Dance and Barnsdale Hood. For those with a pooch, the Fun Dog Show took place in aid of The Prince of Wales Hospice.

Mos Eisley Misfits 'Star Wars' costumed characters were a great late addition to Liquorice Shoots, and everyone enjoyed getting selfies and other photographs, including a wedding couple who'd just come out of the Registry Office, and got caught up in all the fun.

I was really pleased with the support we received from Wakefield Council and KLH Events with their artisan fair and food vendors.

Beastfair and Cornmarket hosted Celestial Aerial Fitness, food & kids rides, and birds of prey, whilst the library had kids crafting and Lego, plus a liquorice talk by Colin White. Our chair, Paul Cartwright, also led a liquorice walk on both Saturday and Sunday from the castle to the town centre referencing factories past and present; this was funded by Wakefield Council.

*Phil Cook – Community Connectors Group Coordinator*

## Society Socials

We had another good turnout for the third in the series of informal lunches for our members.



On this occasion we were thirteen in all, and we met at the Angel Pub in Ackworth for a hearty lunch and a good gossip. The food was very good, all plates emptied!

During 2024, we have established a good number of regular attendees but we would love to see this increase during the autumn months. If you are free do think about joining us at the next lunch in September, at the Cobbler Pub on Knottingley Road. Our fellow member Jan Barlow has taken on the organisation for this event on Tues 3 September, an email invitation has already been issued. You can also contact events@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk if you have any questions.



From October onwards we are going to consider holding an event in the evening as this may suit other members who are unable to come along at lunchtime. We think that the informal format works well, but we can always think about this if our members have any ideas. Just let us know.

*Peter Ferrari – Trustee*

# Pontefract Events



## 2024

### PCS Talk & events

#### September

- 6 - 15 **Heritage Open Days**  
Various Locations
- 18 **The History of the English Canal System**  
Eric Jackson

#### October

- 16 **A Little More Magic**  
by Ray Roberts

### Other events

- 19 26 **Pontefract Races**
- 21 **Pontefract Races**
- 21 **Trafalgar Day**

### PCS Talk & events

#### November

- 1 - 15 **Light Up your Christmas**  
Lions Club & Market Hall
- 20 **Performance of Arthur Walker's Great War**  
by Chris Cade
- 10 **Remembrance Sunday**
- 11 **Armistice Day**
- 14 - 17 **Continental Food Market**
- 24 **Santa's Grotto & Light Up**

### Other events

## 2025

### PCS Talk & events

#### January

- 21 **Local Beer and Pubs**  
Ian Clayton
- 27 **Design Awards**  
Town Hall

### Other events

- 12 - 18 **St Giles and St Mary's Pantomime**  
Town Hall

#### February

- 18 **The American Civil War**  
David Skillern

#### March

- 18 **Olaf's Tales of Battle**  
Chris Cade

#### April

- 15 **All about Chocolate**  
Allan Dixon
- 8 14 30 **Pontefract Races**

#### May

- 20 **Yorkshire Folk on Holiday in the Early 20th Century**  
Christine Leveridge
- 23 **Pontefract Races**  
Evening Meeting
- 24 **KLH Events**  
Spring Fling - Ackworth Quaker School

#### June

- 14 **WheelFest25/1940's Ropergate**  
Town Centre
- 17 **The Pontefract Murder**  
Eric Jackson
- 6 **Prince of Wales Hospice**  
Corporate Golf Day
- 9 **Pontefract Races**  
Evening Meeting
- 24 **KLH Events**  
Wheelfest - St Giles' Church
- 22 24 30 **Pontefract Races**

### PCS Talk & events

#### July

- 12 **Liquorice Shoots**  
Town Centre
- 13 **Liquorice Festival**  
Town Centre
- 15 **The Mobile Police Museum**  
David Hardcastle

### Other events

- 8 **Pontefract Races**
- 12 **KLH Events**  
Liquorice Shoots - Pontefract
- 13 **KLH Events**  
Liquorice Festival - Pontefract Town Hall
- 18 **Pontefract Races** Evening Meeting
- 19 **Prince of Wales Hospice**  
Cyclothon & Family Fun Day
- 27 **Pontefract Races**

#### August

- 1 **Yorkshire Day**  
Valley Gardens
- 6 17 **Pontefract Races**

#### September

- 16 **Aquabox (Clean drinking water charity)**  
Gordon McGlone
- 18 25 **Pontefract Races**
- 12 - 21 **Heritage Open Days**

#### October

- 21 **The Many behind the Few**  
David Skillern
- 6 20 **Pontefract Races**

#### November

- 18 **My visit to the Normandy D-Day Beaches**  
Dave Hogg
- 9 **Remembrance Sunday**
- 11 **Armistice Day**

#### December

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

# Community Group News

## Ackworth & Pontefract Royal British Legion



As you may well know, the Royal British Legion is known for the annual poppy appeal, and our emblem, the red poppy.

Every year, the RBL mobilise a countrywide network of Poppy Appeal collectors to meet the huge public demand for poppies, the nation's symbol of Remembrance.



The Ackworth and Pontefract Branch is well advanced in their planning for this year's appeal. Our Poppy Appeal Organisers Roger and Janice Kirby have taken delivery of stock and are now looking to arrange collection stalls which will be located at various supermarkets across both Ackworth and Pontefract from late October up until Armistice Day.

During the annual Poppy Appeal our volunteers, local cadet units and schools make a real difference to the lives of people in the Armed Forces community, with the area of Ackworth and Pontefract generously donating a total of £250,000 over the last 7 years.



However, our organisers (past and present) and the members of the branch cannot do this without willing volunteers to help collecting at our stalls, and although we benefit greatly from a small network of local people, who selflessly give up their time on our many stalls, we always look for more volunteers who want to do their bit and help. You do not need to have been a member of the Armed Forces or a member of the RBL. Anyone can volunteer to help during the annual Poppy Appeal.

The Poppy Appeal Organisers and branch members will be hosting a launch event in late October. If you would like to volunteer during the Poppy Appeal you can register your interest ahead of the launch via RBL website (look for our link on the local branches page) or by visiting our Facebook page - British Legion Ackworth and Pontefract. Alternatively, you can email us at - [ackworth.chairman@rbl.community](mailto:ackworth.chairman@rbl.community)

The Ackworth and Pontefract Branch also arranges Remembrance and Armistice Day events in Pontefract and Ackworth with Remembrance Sunday this year taking place in both locations on the 10th November. More details regarding these and other national events can also be found on our website and Facebook page.

*Robert Herrington Cdr RN – Branch Chair*

# Community Group News

**Pontefract Calligraphers**  
**Annual Exhibition at**  
**Pontefract Library**  
**24 Aug to 7 Sept 2024**

Join the group on Sat 7 Sept, any time between 10am-2pm to try your hand at calligraphy

**FREE**

Why not book for our Beginner's Taster Session on **Tue 17 Sept, 7-9pm at East Hardwick Village Hall?** (£12.00)

For more information and to book a place for 17 Sept please contact us by email at [pcalligraphers@gmail.com](mailto:pcalligraphers@gmail.com) or book on Eventbrite. (fees apply on Eventbrite).

Our weekly group meets on Tuesdays during term time and all are welcome to join. (Beginners from Sept only). Scan QR code for link to Eventbrite and our social media pages.

**This project was supported with a Culture Grant by Wakefield Council as part of Our Year - Wakefield District 2024**

**Supported by Wakefield Council**

**We are happy to be supporting the Pontefract Heritage Open Days**

**Supported by Heritage Open Days**

**St Giles with St Mary's noda**  
**Pantomime Theatre Society**  
**presents**

**HANSEL AND GRETEL**

**Pontefract Town Hall**

12th-18th January 2025 (excluding Wednesday)  
 Evening Performances 7pm  
 Sunday & Saturday Matinee 2pm  
 £10 Adults £8 Concessions

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stgileswithstmarys>



## Bookshelf



**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: ☎ 01977 708658 or  
 Email: 📩 [info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk)  
 for further information.

## Contacts \*Trustees

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**Board Administrator – Diane Atkinson**

✉ [pcsboardsecretary@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:pcsboardsecretary@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
<b>FARMER COPLEYS</b> Your local Farm Shop, Tea Cafe & Bistro Restaurant	<b>Barkers Fencing</b>	<b>CLEAR WEALTH MANAGEMENT</b> Fresh Financial Planning	<b>THE RED LION INN</b>	<b>THE NEW BULL INN</b>
Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member
<b>THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPICE</b>	<b>Panda IT Solutions</b> Complete Business & Home Care	<b>Michelle's Flowers Limited</b>	<b>TRACKED SPIDER SOLUTIONS</b>	<b>MAGISTRATES MARKET</b>
Gold Member	Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member
<b>CARTNERS NO5</b>	<b>The Old Grocers</b>	<b>newcollege</b> Pontefract	<b>TD EVENTS</b> EVENT & VIP SECURITY SOLUTIONS	
Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member	
	<b>Cromwells RESTAURANT</b> SINCE 1988	<b>twistedesign.</b>	<b>ridley&amp;hall</b> solicitors	
Bronze Member	Bronze Member	Bronze Member	Bronze Member	Bronze Member
<b>SWITALSKIS</b> SOLICITORS	<b>FG</b>	<b>ST MARYS</b> community centre	<b>Mark R Cawthorn</b> Accountancy Services	

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## Membership & Partnerships

