

Pontefract *Voice*



Design Awards 2023 – just rewards for making Pontefract a better place

On Tues 30 Jan, Pontefract Civic Society hosted its Design Awards for 2023, in the Georgian Nelson Room of Pontefract Town Hall in front of a gathering of business and property owners, architects, contractors, representatives from Wakefield Council, and Civic Society members.

Civic Society Chair, Paul Cartwright said *"this is an evening to celebrate regeneration projects which enhance the historic streetscape and open spaces of Pontefract as a place for residents and visitors to shop, relax, and enjoy."*

The Civic Society presented the Countess of Rosse Façade of the Year award to Headhunters, a two year project, based on the façade's bold and distinctive colour scheme and signage over all three floors of this jettied timber framed building, estimated to be 16th century. Headhunters were nominated in three categories and they walked away with two justifiable awards.

Jenine Hunter, owner, said, *"I'm absolutely blown away to be entered into so many categories, and to have won two of them, makes all the hard work worthwhile. I can't thank everyone that voted for me enough, and for all their kind words about my project".*

Other awards presented on the night were:



Civic/Commercial – Indoor Market Hall



Special Commendations – Pontefract Park Play Area



Regeneration Award – No. 23/Erubi



Residential Award – WDH Newport House



Heritage Award – Red Lion



Improvement Award – Headhunters

Philip Henfrey, Civic Society Planning Group deputy coordinator, said *"Our assessments start with the planning applications, followed by walking around the town checking the changes as they take place, and then suitable nominees are visited to discuss the work with owners; it's a year-long activity for us".*

Tom Dixon RIP – Mr Liquorice

We don't normally report in this way when members pass away, and Tom wasn't actually a member, though as the following explains, he was a good servant of the Civic Society and the town, as a whole.



This is not designed to be an obituary, though our chair was encouraged to write this by Dr Colin White for the Pontefract & Castleford Express (who didn't print it). Colin, a friend of Tom's at the Squash Club 'old men's group' met for exercise and coffee a few times per week; for Tom it was probably more about the coffee and chat, though.

We recently learnt of the passing of one of Pontefract's most well-known and respected characters, Tom Dixon. A public speaker, writer, and TV personality who recounted tales of liquorice growing and manufacturing, on the family farm which used to grow liquorice plants to make medicinal and confectionary products, or as Tom and many local people used to call it, "Spanish", after the possible origins of the plants 10 centuries earlier. He always mentioned the daily train loads of liquorice going from Pontefract to Boots in Nottingham, and whether an excess of liquorice brought about the demise of Queen Victoria.

Civic Society Chair, Paul Cartwright said *"Tom was a regular on our talks programme, covering both liquorice and Northgate Lodge (the former workhouse), and he was generous in offering his time each year to host Heritage Open Days events at his home. He will be sadly missed by the Civic Society and many other local groups, where lectures were given, some factual, some family tales and recollections from Wilkinson's factory, and friendships were forged."*

The legacy he leaves behind will continue to educate future generations through his booklets, and the archive TV appearances he made on travelog programmes hosted by the likes of Michael Portillo, Ade Edmundson and others. In these programmes, Tom would recount the visit made by Sir John Betjeman to the family home, where he wrote "The Licorice Fields At Pontefract".

Hosting three events in five days showcasing Pontefract

On Tuesday 27 Feb, Pontefract Civic Society hosted its Annual General Meeting, which was well attended by members and local ward councillors at Pontefract Town Hall.

Civic Society Chair, Paul Cartwright said *"the AGM was a success in showing via our Annual Report 2023 just what a good Civic Society can achieve, and we were pleased have Rachael Anderson (Magistrates Market manager) volunteer to fill the role of Honorary Secretary."*



The AGM closed with the presentation of two new Community Group member awards, firstly a trophy, certificate and £75 cheque to the winner, Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens for their crown bed and installation, and to the runner up, St Giles Belfry, for their 'Ring for the King'; they received a certificate and a cheque for £25.

On Fri 1 Mar, the Civic Society also hosted the **We Are Wakefield** business networking event which filled the town hall with around 140 delegates and 15 exhibiting businesses. The event was led by Claire Sutherley DL, We Are Wakefield CEO; our Chair, Paul Cartwright presented the work of the Civic Society, followed by a representative from The Prince of Wales Hospice.

On Sat 2 Mar, **Pontefract Civic Society** hosted the Community Showcase in the town hall, hosting 17 local organisations from Pontefract and the surrounding area.



Paul Cartwright went on to say *"Over the four hour period, there was a great buzz in the hall which enabled many conversations and much networking to go on. This event allows us to shine a spotlight onto our fellow community groups, which in turn allows them to recruit new members and audiences, and to provide services for those who need them".*



More details will follow in our Citizenship Report.

Chair's Report



Funded by
UK Government

**LEVELLING
UP**

Levelling up success

I was successful in submitting a £5,000 bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund run by West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Wakefield Council.

This will be a research and delivery project for six blue plaques; the process will require member and community engagement in the research process. So if you are interested, contact me.



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

wakefieldcouncil

Diary key events

Since the last issue of Pontefract Voice, Wakefield Council has held two meetings of the Pontefract Regeneration Group, which I attended with Phil Cook (9 Nov & 1 Feb).

Having participated in an invitation-only Destination Management workshop at Wakefield Town Hall on 8 Nov, I was then invited to participate in a Q&A Panel at Wakefield Council's inaugural Tourism Conference at The Hepworth on 22 Jan.

The Yorkshire & Humber Association of Civic Societies (of which I am a trustee) held its AGM at The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate over the 26-27 Jan. Pontefract Civic Society featured in the newsletter (HOD and Christmas windows). The meeting elected a number of new officers, Margaret Hicks-Clarke as Chair (Goole & Scarborough), and Jane Lee (Keighley) as Treasurer, whilst Alan Goodrum (Halifax) became Vice Chair. Simon Green from Hull was appointed as a new trustee and elected. Spenborough won the Spawforth Award for a community environmental project.

On Monday 29 January, I presented WheelFest and other activities in animating the town centre as part of a series of Civic Voice Membership Monday webinars.

Following the success of the above Civic Voice webinar, I was invited to speak at a Heritage Trust Network regional event in Wakefield on 5 Jun.

Finally, I was due to attend a meeting in Wakefield on West Yorkshire Police Priorities on 10 January. However, at the eleventh hour as no one else had booked to

participate in the meeting, it was switched to a telephone interview. On behalf of the people and businesses of Pontefract, my focus for on combating anti-social behaviour in the town centre, as well as our park and Friarwood Valley Gardens.

As the Civic Society continues to be a busy place for some of us, further meetings and events are listed below.

Diary of a Chair

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

- Civic Voice webinar Looking ahead to 2024 (11 Jan)
- St Giles with St Mary's Pantomime (16 Jan)
- The Prince of Wales Hospice Club 5 breakfast networking (17 Jan)
- Wakefield District Tourism Conference (22 Jan)
- Civic Voice Community Improvement Districts (18 Jan)
- Armed Forces Day catch up call (24 Jan)
- Civic Voice Woolworths heritage with Graham Soult (25 Jan)
- Wakefield Council Events meeting support for WheelFest & Liquorice Shoots (31 Jan)
- Pontefract town centre issues walkabout with Sarah Scholes and Phil Cook (16 Feb)
- Heritage Network conference briefing phone call for public speaking in June (21 Feb)
- Wakefield Council Highways online meeting (8 Feb)
- Highways England A1 open forum at Darrington Golf Club (10 Feb)
- Wakefield Council Planning Committee for Castleford Tigers Stadium at Wheldon Road, and Axiom Yorkshire at M62/A639 junction 32 (15 Feb)
- Wakefield Civic Society at 60 (15 Feb)
- Leeds Civic Trust AGM (19 Feb)
- High Street Task Force roadshow at Unity Works (22 Feb)
- Pontefract Racecourse Welcome Lunch (28 Feb)
- Planning Group visit to the former Ackroyd's (29 Feb)
- The Yorkshire Society Yorkshire Awards Gala Night (1 Mar)
- Quaker meeting house meeting for Heritage Open Days (4 Mar)
- 'Our Heritage Our Stories' photo opportunity & press quote, and online meeting (14 Feb, 4 Mar)
- YHACS Executive online meeting (9 Mar)
- Wakefield Council Green Space Forum (11 Mar)
- Place Based Indicators meeting with Wakefield Council and Homes England (12 Mar)
- The Collation and Induction of Reverend Ian Bullock as Vicar of Pontefract (13 Mar)

For further information go to www.theyorkshiresociety.org



- Wakefield Council Service Director of Planning meeting with other civic societies (15 Mar)

IMPORTANT: Members, look out for a communication where we are seeking your opinions on a number of future events, as past notices attempts have met with mixed levels of response.

The Yorkshire Society Heritage Summit 2024

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

- Heritage Summit planning meetings (12 Jan, 23 Feb, 14 Mar)
- Heritage Summit site visit (5 Mar)

Outside, there will be a Minster-run Farmers Market, then there's the exhibition and symposium inside, plus there are guided walks and other tours of the Old Town, close by.

Saturday 11 May

- Free exhibition
- Ticketed symposium
- Ticketed Heritage Lottery Fund 1-2-1's
- Old Town walks of different lengths (bookable on the day)
- Ticketed Evening Social

Sunday 12 May (all events require pre-booking)

- Hessle Road Walk and Hull Fishing Heritage Centre
- Walk: Wincolmlee and the River Hull – an Oil Miller's Tale
- Walk: Hull Rocks! The building stones of Hull
- Bus Tour: The Great Yorkshire Wolds Discovery Bus



Paul Cartwright - Chair

Membership

Welcome our new members:

- Margaret Smith
- Cherry Tree Academy – Junior Civic Society
- Joanne Smillie
- Ackworth & Pontefract Branch RBL – Community Group
- Pontefract Community Kitchen – Community Group
- Helen Antcliff
- TD Events Ltd – Silver Business
- Arnie Craven
- Featherstone Rovers Foundation – Community Group
- Cawthorn Accountancy – Bronze Business
- Twisted Design – Silver Business
- Karen Heywood
- David & Claire Oates

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.

Welcoming Businesses to Pontefract

The following are non-members, though we're sure that they may join us. In the meantime, they'll welcome your support.

- The Emporium (was ETSY, Cornmarket)
- Wild and Wood Skincare (Southgate)
- Galileo's Show Bar (Ropergate)

Business Member Focus



Cawthorn Accountancy is an established Pontefract accountancy practice, started in 1990 by Mick Cawthorn, ex of Holstead and Senior, an old name in Pontefract.

Mark (his son) joined the practice in 1999, and is now in his 25th year running the business. We like to feel we are a friendly, engaging practice, and enjoy interaction with clients, some of whom are helping towards the regeneration and general optimism about Pontefract. Mark works with Karen his wife, Jenny their daughter (giving the business the third generation of family involvement), Shirley (who has worked for the business longer than Mark), and Jayne.

We operate from Bridge House, 96 Bondgate, which is the old building where Asquith Butchers started their journey to forming the Asda supermarkets empire, and feel very privileged to occupy it.

There is much cause for optimism locally, with great opportunities for the heritage and unique history of the area to be dialled up. We have joined the Civic Society to show our support for the work you do in this regard.

Mark said; "The Society is something I'd like to help out with in the future, but work does get in the way of a lot of things"!

Mark Cawthorn - Owner

Working Group Reports

Planning Group

We have been busy over recent months, delivering our successful Design Awards 2023 ceremony, which is reported elsewhere in this issue.

Planning applications reviewed are below. Our February meeting welcomed a relatively new member to the group, Canon Andrew Sage, who is Master of Archbishop Holgate Hospital just outside Hemsworth. Some of you may have met Andrew and his wife Helen, at our Christmas Dinner. He joins us with planning committee experience at Blackpool Civic Trust, and his former day job managing a portfolio of ecclesiastical buildings in Lancashire.

January Meeting - (hosted by The Old Grocers)

23/02103/FUL 12-14 Ropergate, 5 self-contained appts above current retail outlet – Support.

23/02198/LBC Rear of 23 Market Place (Santander), repair of collapsed wall – Support.

23/01654/LBC Decommissioning of former Barclays Bank building. Replacement Barclays and Leatham & Tew signs – Support.

23/02207
RAILNT Monkhill station, passenger footbridge and lifts – Monkhill station, passenger footbridge and lifts – advise council to amend our rail group submission from Object to Support.



23/02384/
EIASO Land at Holme Farm Way, Carleton; up to 225 residential units – environmental impact survey – Concerns of highways access, await full application.

24/00016/TPO King's School, tree felling – Neutral.

16/03158/S730 Knottingley Quarry vary conditions and 16/03158/FUL remove conditions – Support.

23/00100/HYB Former Coal Yard, Ferrybridge 'C' Power Station, Hybrid planning app infrastructure, rail, estate road, highways to Kirkhaw Lane/B6136 junction – Support.

23/02023/FUL Nevison Leap P/House & Flat to 3 Retail & 3 Flats – Support.

February Meeting - (hosted by The Red Lion)

24/00075/LBC Barracks Business Centre, refurb of Cavalier suite – Noted.

24/00062/ADV Malt Shovel new signage & 24/00072/LBC – Support.

24/00147/FUL Friar Wood House, 3 Mill Hill Road, new ancillary accommodation – Neutral.

24/00084/FUL 31 Hill Top, Knottingley, Demolition of existing single storey, extensions, COU single dwelling to 6 flats – Support.

March Meeting - (hosted by Pontefract RUFC)

24/00225/FUL 22a Ropergate; 2 self-contained 1st floor appartments – Support

24/00310/FUL 15 Ropergate Galileo bar/nightclub & micropub – Support

24/00306/LBC 23 Market Place, Santander; frontage repair and maintenance – Support

24/00273/CPL 20 Salter Row (former Poundland) change of entrance doors – Support

24/00380/FUL Park Grange Farm, Park Lane; conversion of barns to 6 self-contained holiday lets – Support

23/01512/FUL St Michaels Church Carleton, renewal of ground floor extension application – Support

24/00285/FUL St Michaels Church Carleton; graveyard extension – Support

Phil Henfrey – Deputy Coordinator

Society Socials

In February, we tried something new for our members by holding the initial 'Society Social' event in Pontefract Town Centre. We wanted to offer something alongside our established Talks and Tours calendar, that would allow an opportunity to meet and chat to fellow members in a relaxed and informal way.

And so it came to pass that there were 13 of us for lunch at Cromwell's Cafe, and it was not long before chins were wagging and news/gossip were being exchanged! Three members couldn't attend due to illness, whom we hope to see in April. We did take a breather to allow for some photos to be taken but the business of the day was soon resumed. It was a great way to learn about fellow members and has set the tone nicely for our next event. My wife, Pauline and I organised things, and we're looking for a good spot for further lunchtime gatherings. **STOP PRESS!** Farmer Copley's has been lined up for lunch on Tues 9 Apr.



So for February, our thanks must go to Calvin and his team at Cromwell's who were excellent hosts and provided some great food.

Peter Ferrari

Citizenship Report

Junior Civic Society

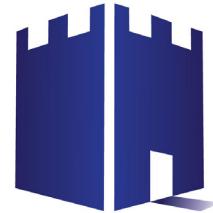
With thanks to Rhona Crichton, we've started projects with some schools this year, and no doubt others will follow.

Art Exhibition

This will be the very first schools' public art exhibition once the works are completed in the spring.

The following schools have received canvases and paint and will soon be getting underway using the theme of 'Friendships' as a base for this exhibition in Pontefract Library in May and June:

- King's School
- Carleton High School
- Carleton Park School
- Orchard Head School
- Halfpenny Lane School
- Larks Hill School
- The Rookeries School
- De Lacy School



PONTEFRACT
ACADEMIES TRUST

Keep Britain Tidy Posters

(The Great British Spring Clean)

We've collected anti-litter posters for judging and public display from:

- Halfpenny Lane School
- King's School
- Orchard Head School
- St Giles' Academy
- Larks Hill School

Community Showcase Success

"Brilliant day and great event"! Sarah Colley, FAB Wakefield

"Please accept thanks from Pontefract Foodbank. Showcase event. We felt so supported by your people and the event provided us with some valuable opportunities to make links and recruit volunteers. We are really grateful for all the work put in to make the event happen and to create such a warm and welcoming atmosphere on the day. With best wishes for your programme for 2024". Ann Harris

"Thank you for the invite to come along, looking forward to future events". Leslie Jeffries



Our Vision

We believe in a bright future for Pontefract as a thriving market town which engages its community and visitors through regular events, a diverse retail offering and unique experiences.

Delivering Change

By working closely with schools, businesses and volunteers, we hope to achieve our aims by delivering projects which will benefit those that visit, live and work in the town.





1940's DAY
Ropergate Pontefract
 Part of **WheelFest 24**
10th June 2024

D Day 80th anniversary proclamation by the town crier, military vehicles & equipment displays, businesses dressed, re-enactors, 1940's cafe food, and live entertainment

PONTEFRACT CIVIC SOCIETY

contact events@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk for involvement/sponsorship opportunities



PONTEFRACT WHEELFEST 2024
 A CAR MEETING WITH A DIFFERENCE SATURDAY 08.06.2024

PONTEFRACT CIVIC SOCIETY

Wakefield council working for you

Wheel Fest24 now approved

We have received confirmed from Wakefield Council's Safety Advisory Group that WheelFest24 is approved.

The next two steps that we can now move onto are to formally get a market licence to cover our additional activities, and a road closure for Ropergate.

WheelFest24 sponsors



Cornmarket and trophy sponsor (three wheels or less)



Beastfair and trophy sponsor (four wheels or more)



Shoemarket



Salter Row



Market Place



Ropergate

Pontefract Events 2024



PCS TALK & EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS

JANUARY

17 THE HISTORY OF CARLETON ROSSE OBSERVATORY

Rosse Observatory, Carleton by Paul Dobson

30 2023 DESIGN AWARDS

Town Hall

14-20 SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS PANTOMIME

Town Hall

FEBRUARY

21 MY MAYORAL YEAR

by David Jones

27 CIVIC SOCIETY AGM

Town Hall

MARCH

1 WE ARE WAKEFIELD BUSINESS NETWORK

Town Hall

2 COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Town Hall

20 DANGEROUS WOMEN

by Steve Ward

20 EASTER EGG HUNT

Friarwood Valley Gardens

23 PONTEFRACHT CHORAL SOCIETY 150TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

St Giles Church

APRIL

17 PONTEFRACHT STATUTES FAIR 1945 TO 1980

by Steve Smith

3 PONTEFRACHT RACES

13 KLH CRAFT FAIR

22 PONTEFRACHT RACES

MAY

15 THE HISTORY OF RAIL POSTERS

by Jane Ellis

10-11 SCOOTER CLUB RALLY

Pontefract Collieries

19 THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPICE 10K

Pontefract Park

24 PONTEFRACHT RACES

26 THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPICE SPRING FAIR

Hospice Gardens

JUNE

8 WHEELFEST

Town Centre

7 THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPICE GOLF DAY

Pontefract & District Golf Day

8 KLH CRAFT FAIR

8 PONTEFRACHT CHORAL SOCIETY SUMMER CONCERT

St Giles Church

10 PONTEFRACHT RACES

22 PONTE ROCKS

Farmer Copleys

23 PONTEFRACHT RACES

29 ARMED FORCES DAY

29 PROMS AT THE CASTLE

30 MUSICALS AT THE CASTLE

PCS TALK & EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS

JULY

13 LIQUORICE SHOTS

Town Centre

17 KING GEORGE V'S VISIT TO THE WEST RIDING

by Christine Leveridge

1 PONTEFRACHT RACES

9 PONTEFRACHT RACES

13-14 KLH CRAFT FAIR

14 LIQUORICE FESTIVAL

Town centre, castle & Friarwood Valley Gardens

19 PONTEFRACHT RACES

20 HOSPICE CYCLOTHON

Pontefract RUFC

28 PONTEFRACHT RACES

AUGUST

1 YORKSHIRE DAY

Friarwood Valley Gardens

7 PONTEFRACHT RACES

10 FRIARWOOD FESTIVAL

Friarwood Valley Gardens

18 PONTEFRACHT RACES

SEPTEMBER

6-15 HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Various Location

18 YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR CO-OP NUMBER

by Stephen Caunce

19 PONTEFRACHT RACES

26 PONTEFRACHT RACES

OCTOBER

16 A LITTLE MORE MAGIC

by Ray Roberts

19 LIONS LANTERN PARADE

Castle & Friarwood Valley Gardens

21 PONTEFRACHT RACES

21 TRAFALGAR DAY

NOVEMBER

20 PERFORMANCE OF ARTHUR WALKER'S GREAT WAR

by Chris Cade

10 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

11 ARMISTICE DAY

DECEMBER

5 CHRISTMAS WITH THE LIQUORICE SINGERS

King's Croft

7 KLH CRAFT FAIR

Community Group News

Heartfelt Hospital Support

Castleford and Pontefract District Lions Club CIO have donated 100 emergency Toiletry Packs to Pinderfields Hospital.



These toiletry packs will provide essential comfort and convenience to patients who arrive at hospital with nothing, undoubtedly make a significant difference in the lives of patients during their stay.



Bringing a splash of colour to Town

As we head into spring Castleford and Pontefract District Lions Club will once again be maintaining the flower troughs in Pontefract Town Centre.

Preparations have started ready for the spring planting.



Jeannette Morgan
Castleford & Pontefract District Lions Club CIO 1179659

Pontefract Art Club

The club has enjoyed an art holiday at Coberhill, near Whitby, North Yorkshire for many years and this year we have been back again.

A week spent being creative with no distractions other than the wonderful location and the delicious food. Many art works were created by the enthusiastic members.

Rhona Crichton – Secretary/Treasurer



Bookshelf



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

🌐 www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/shop
 alternatively phone: ☎ 01977 708658 or
 Email: 📩 info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk
 for further information.



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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 | 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 | |
|  | |  |  | |

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Membership & Partnerships



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