

# **ANNUAL REPORT** 2019









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### Acknowledgements

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Our thanks to Rogerthorpe Manor Hotel, Pontefract Squash & Leisure Club, Wakefield MDC, The Old Grocers, The Tap & Barrel, and Coffee Lounge.

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## **CHAIR'S REVIEW OF 2019**



Over recent years under my chairmanship, Pontefract Civic Society has clearly punched above its weight, and I firmly believe that we will continue to do so as long as we have a clear direction and strong leadership in our trustees and key management roles (even when we are all volunteers).

2019 has been no exception in our progress, in fact, we have surpassed all expectations in most areas, which you will be able to read in this Annual Report. Part of this success followed on a new group structure being rolled out shifting our previous three committees with three sub-groups, each with too broad a remit and insufficient volunteers, to seven groups with two sub-groups, each with a more focused remit. This change has paid dividends in bringing more members to the civic society, and drawing together those who are prepared to be a little more active. Off the back of the Tour de Yorkshire, the creation of our Decoration Squad has benefited the civic society, the town, and hopefully you and visitors to Pontefract.

A rewarding event at the start of 2019 following a meeting was to welcome St Giles CofE Academy into our Junior Civic Society, and I think we can say that we have never looked back following a series of activities including litter picking, singing for the Tour de Yorkshire, a litter poster competition, six blue plaque guided walks (phase I), a talk and tour of the Town Hall for two classes, and planting almost 200 daffodil bulbs with two classes in the school grounds.

Carleton Park J&I School has also engaged with us in a Tour de Yorkshire poster competition. The best entries were put onto a banner which was displayed on the Valley Gardens railing in May.

Former Committees	New Group Structure
Conservation, Environment & Planning	Planning Group
	Heritage Group
Land Use & Transport	Highways Group
Rail sub-group	Rail Group
Publicity, Events & Administration	Talks & Tours Group
	Citizenship Group
-	Economic Growth (to be effected)
-	Members' Meetings
Futures Group	Futures Group
Executive Committee	Executive Committee

They also participated in the Civic Day litter poster competition, and surplus daffodil bulbs from Friends of Pontefract Park were passed on for pupils to plant.

We were very fortunate to be able to match up Phil Henfrey's research on Elizabeth Moxon to further research from Dream Time Creative, a Wakefield-based research and performance organisation. Yvette Cooper MP, unveiled a blue plaque at the Town Hall along with representatives of the Moxon family and the Moxon Society, the event being brought to life through drama and poetry; the plaque has since been erected on Finkle Street, close to where Elizabeth would have lived.



I am personally thankful to Jaydn Edwards, a new member who has taken some of the load off Karl, in creating leaflets and the 2020 photo calendar, as well as a series of new leaflets – an updated Blue Plaque Guide, a new Town Hall information leaflet, Christmas Trail, our 2020 Events leaflet. This was essential following the launch of Pomfretian by Karl, a rewarding business venture and so beneficial to the town, we wish Karl the best of luck in developing his magazine.

I was proud and honoured to represent Pontefract's community groups by publicly welcoming the new St Giles Vicar, Canon June Lawson, during the Collation & Induction service.

We engaged with the Keep Britain Tidy campaign in March, though we were saddened that the wider community did not engage with us, with few exceptions.

We established positive contact with the new owners of 30 Gillygate, which proved beneficial for the success of our Heritage Open Days, following research on the building from Phil Henfrey. During our 50th Anniversary year, a number of celebratory events were effectively delivered by Phil Cook, with all costs covered to his credit, though we both feel that more members could have supported these events to make them even more successful. The growth of support and partnership in 2019 can't be underestimated, whether it is from our fellow community groups, to schools, businesses and churches. The success of bringing people together for the Tour de Yorkshire can't be underestimated and Phil deserves all the credit for steering this new group, for achieving the Best Dressed Town award, and for being runner-up 'Spirit of the Tour' (an individual category) – both of those via an online public vote. Getting Christian

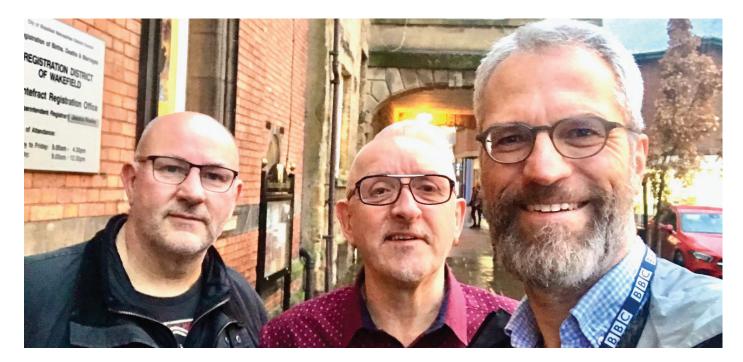


Prudhomme and Thomas Voeckler to Pontefract the day before the tour commenced was a definite coup, something we are not aware has been done before; they flew into Manchester airport and were brought directly to the town by Welcome to Yorkshire. We presented gifts, had breakfast at the Roast House, we gave them a tour of decorated sites including the Market Hall and Library, and it was a day we will long remember.

When we knew the Tour de Yorkshire was back in Pontefract, I asked Wakefield MDC to help by purchasing street bunting, which was erected in Market Place and Ropergate, which looked fantastic and brought Pontefract into line with many market towns and villages up and down the land. I then asked for this to be left up for the Liquorice Festival, where I successfully secured a road closure for Ropergate, then the bunting remained for Yorkshire Day and Heritage Open Days. I hope you will all agree that this impact made a tremendous difference to our town centre throughout the year.

I've maintained an involvement with Wakefield Cultural Consortium through a number of partner update meetings, and by promoting and participating in their Yorkshire Passion education event, which was designed to demonstrate how frontline staff and volunteers in all sectors should welcome and help visitors.

We also tried to recreate part of our historic archive for the civic society though that had to be put on the back-burner, while we concentrated on the running of the civic society in what was to be one of our busiest years; perhaps we will come back to our history and heritage in the future months and years.



In July, we hosted a party of visitors from Wetherby Civic Society, who were incredibly pleased and surprised by the wealth of heritage stories we had to tell on an afternoon guided walk, and by the quality of Pontefract's streetscape. We have been offered a return visit in 2020, though they did say, when we visit them they might struggle to match Pontefract!

During Heritage Open Days in September, we launched a new book, Fletcher Rhodes Collaboration written by Roger Ellis, and that is available to purchase on our website, and in Pontefract Library. This book references the close collaboration over many years of an author and his illustrator in Pontefract, Carleton and Darrington, amongst other places.

After many months of hope in trying to get BBC Radio Leeds Andrew Edwards to come to Pontefract, this was achieved in December, where he met Phil Cook and me to record a couple of short segments in the Town Hall. This was for his weekend breakfast show item called Secret Spaces, and we clearly wanted to give him big surprise, quite literally, as we escorted Andrew into the Nelson Room – he was blown away.

Earlier in 2019, Phil Cook and I were live on air with BBC Radio Leeds, firstly with Richard Stead and alongside John Turner, Town Crier, where we promoted Pontefract as a place to visit and shop, then in July we did a live interview with Nick Ahad to promote Pontefract Liquorice Festival.

We ended the year with the runner up prize (certificate and £100) from the Yorkshire & Humber Association of Civic Societies (YHACS) for a successful 50th Anniversary year.

# Wakefield MDC Partnership Work

Our engagement with Wakefield MDC is significant, and our influence is making a difference through a number of meetings on different levels, whether that is our quarterly Pontefract Steering Group with Cllr Denise Jeffery and Regeneration Director, Tom Stannard, to the Pontefract Delivery Group with a cross section of departmental officers, the Anti-Social Behaviour & Night Time Economy Task Group, and meetings on Highways, Markets and Major Events.

Getting a seat at the table has been made possible by building a positive relationship from top to bottom in the Council, whether councillors or officers. We contribute when we can, we are creative and innovative in our thinking, and we will equally be critical and challenging.

We made significant written contribution to the Local Plan 2026, which we hope informs planning decision making in the local authority.

Following a 'call to action' from Civic Voice, I took it upon myself to ask the Council why they didn't have a Heritage Champion in post. The response was positive with the appointment of Cllr Lynn Masterman to the role. I first met Cllr Masterman at the KOYLI statuette handover to Pontefract Library, and then again at YHACS meeting in Oct which we hosted where she described her remit by working cross-functionally to embed heritage in the Council, and the challenges that lay ahead in 2020. Cllr Masterman also supported our 2019 Design Awards ceremony. The proposed Pontefract Masterplan and Horsefair Street for

People project included an early workshop for WMDC, the civic society, WDH and some school representatives, where we fully participated in the scoping activities.

We ended the year by delivering four banners designed by Christine Cartwright to make the town's Christmas tree look more presentable, and in 2020, we will add two more with the help of local schools; this was our contribution to the Christmas lights managed by the Council.

Other activities which have had my involvement include:

- I was invited to participate in judging entries into the Tour de Yorkshire Land Art for Pontefract prior to a WMDC payment being awarded to the winner
- I've engaged with Wakefield highways team on the Pontefract Knottingley Connect cycle path development and signage
- Makery Launch at Pontefract Library
- Placemaking Workshops
- KOYLI statuette ceremony and handover to Pontefract Library

### **Business**

Our business membership has grown exponentially in recent years, so long may this continue; in 2019 that grew to 25 businesses and most have benefited from our social media output to share their successes, offers and promotions.

Following a period of the court building laid empty, we welcomed the opening of Magistrates Market on Front Street, which had undergone a full internal renovation which is now bright, white and inviting to traders and customers as an Antiques Centre, and café. We immediately struck up an agreement which provided a cabinet for the civic society to promote ourselves and the town, which this displays the Sessions House in context with Pontefract's rich heritage.

Each year we cultivate our relationship with reporters at the Pontefract & Castleford Express, and 2019 got off to the good start with our contributions to the Johnson Press campaign, 'Love your High Street', though we didn't always agree on the observations and analysis shown. We know that Pontefract Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) was a great success for improving buildings over a number of years, and furthermore, it was a catalyst for other buildings, not funded, to be improved. We also know that most small shops with the occasional exception will be taken by a new retailer once they are empty; there are though larger premises which are sticking mainly due to their size. We have to recognise that the 'high street' is changing due to a number of challenging factors, and having experiences, cafes, restaurants and pubs serving food is something we welcome which improves 'dwell time' to consider which product to buy next from our wealth of independent and multiple retailers. Throughout 2019, we have worked hard on building relationships with businesses, we've actively promoted our own business members and others on social media, and we've involved some in our PR and other activities, an example of which is a positive relationship with Enfields Estate Agents who promote our fantastic town and its businesses, and they also had fun being ducked on Yorkshire Day. We hope that returns in 2020! Some shops naturally get on board in decorating their windows, whereas others need our encouragement, though all improve the look and the shopping experience in Pontefract.

We also relaunched our Christmas Trail promoting 30 local businesses who wished to be associated with us by decorating their windows and interiors. These were judged by pupils from St Giles Academy and Carleton Park, and we delivered 250 trail leaflets across the town. Framed certificates were presented to the winner, Flowerworks on Ropergate, the runner up, Jackie's Florist on Gillygate, and third place, Myxology café/bar on Ropergate.









# Part of a Regional and National Body

As a member of the Yorkshire & Humber Association of Civic Societies (YHACS) Executive, and Civic Voice Regional Forum, I have contributed to debates, workshops and networking events, promoting Pontefract and Yorkshire at every opportunity whilst we also learn from the good practice of others. Phil Cook and I participated in a two-day Planning & Design Workshop in Wakefield organised by Kevin Trickett, YHACS Chair. In July, we welcomed a part of 13 members of Wetherby Civic Society on a heritage walk, with the support of John Turner, Town Crier. Through YHACS, I also participated in the Historic England Yorkshire Sector Day in York, which is primarily for local authority officers in the world of heritage and conservation.

### 2020

In May, not only will we have VE Day 75th Anniversary, but we will also host a visit from around 60 representatives at the West Yorkshire Lieutenancy office, a visit which was 'pitched' to the office by our Patron, Michael Sayles Fox DL. We will be offering a heritage tour of the town, together with visits to the Town Hall, Museum, St Giles and Pontefract Castle, all with the support of WMDC, St. Giles Church and Pontefract Heritage Group. Let's hope for some great spring weather.

We have ongoing project commitments to deliver into 2020 using ring-fenced funds from WMDC, Tesco Bags of Help, and RailFuture Y&H, and those funds will be put to good to use to deliver a number of interpretation boards, a fun yet educational activity at public events and rail campaign to communicate about current services, whilst lobbying for something better and hopefully gaining commuter support to add to our membership.

After welcoming the Doncaster Youth Jazz Orchestra to the town in 2019, we will pursue a number of concerts in 2020, firstly the Haley Sisters, a country trio in March, our VE Day concert in May, and a postponed event will take place later in the year, a joint charity event at Carleton Grange for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Throughout 2020 and beyond, we will contribute considerably to Pontefract's regeneration, working closely with Wakefield MDC, keeping them to task on the following:

- Pontefract Masterplan and 'Streets for People' public realm improvement
- Pontefract Steering Group, Pontefract Delivery Group and Antisocial Behaviour & Night Time Economy Task Group
- Markets Review
- Meetings on highways and rail issues

I will drive forward enhancements in internal processes, reporting, policy development, and our use of supporting technology. After all this is the 21st century and we need to stay ahead of the game. Our engagement with members and those yet to be recruited will be strengthened through delivery of projects by active volunteers, all of which will make Pontefract a better place.

Following the demise of Knottingley Civic Society early in 2019, we have taken the decision to expand our area to include Knottingley and Ferrybridge which must be balanced by our focus on Pontefract, a decision we will review with local people in subsequent years. We had offered support to the ailing civic society over recent years, though there was little engagement, and our decision aligns with our Constitution.

### Paul Cartwright

Chairman

# PATRON'S ADDRESS

2019 saw Pontefract Civic Society celebrating its 50th year of service to the community. It was no accident therefore that the Society hosted a very successful meeting for members of YHACS and it was clear from the Chairman's report that our Society plays a significant role in that wider movement.

What has particularly pleased me is the growing support by the Society, and being supported in return, for promoting local businesses, Whilst not a great social media user it has not gone unnoticed by me that the number of shops and other enterprises are doing well on facebook. This confirms a statement made by the Chief Executive of Wakefield MDC when she spoke to the Society that shop occupancy in Pontefract is higher than the national average.

It is also good to see the growing partnership with Wakefield MDC which has led them to produce a Vision for Pontefract 2028.

In conclusion I am looking forward to the meeting hosted and organised by the Society alongside Wakefield MDC officers for the visit by the Vice-Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire and Deputy Lieutenants and their partners to Pontefract on 20th May 2020.

Michael Sayles Fox DL Patron

# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

There is a perception that the civic movement is only concerned with the restoration and preservation of old buildings. While this is a very commendable and laudable part of its work, I am pleased to say that Pontefract Civic Society sees its work on a much larger scale than this.

Over the past year, we have been involved in a direct or supporting capacity in many different functions celebrating the life of the town. Events such as the Tour de Yorkshire, the Liquorice Festival, Yorkshire Day and Heritage Open Days are just a few in which the civic society has been active. A full



programme of public talks, board and group meetings, as well as meetings with Wakefield MDC, have made for a full and active year. This could not have happened without a great deal of hard work and a constructive relationship with other groups in the town as well as WMDC.

Whilst the civic society must retain its own focus, consistent with its aims, cooperation with like-minded groups is always helpful. Looking to 2020, completion of the restoration of the castle last year and the opening of the leisure hub this year should establish these two venues as attractive visitor destinations, which should very much enhance the town's visitor appeal. If our town is to thrive, we must draw in visitors and they will only come if there is enough to see and do. Our events, festivals, historic sites and town-centre amenities need to be widely advertised and, above all, accessible and convenient by public and private transport for this aim to be realised.

My earnest hope is that the civic society will continue to play a full part in the many different aspects of making this aim a reality. In its 50 years of life, the civic society has done a great deal for the good of the town and we look forward to continuing this work into the future.

Peter Cookson President

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Citizenship Group

At During my first year as vice chair I have been privileged to be part of a fantastic team who have achieved so much in 2019. For the Citizenship group in particular it has been a very busy and active year, not only in our mission to encourage youth membership and interaction with the civic society, but also in the support and arrangements for our 50th anniversary year. I am delighted in the way the whole team has taken the group forward and while we have lost some of our members we have been able to welcome new members. What is very satisfying for me is the interaction with other community groups and local business supporting the Pontefract Civic Society in making Pontefract a talking point in a positive way in the district, and beyond. This has led to the creation of the Pontefract Decoration Squad, which has actively taken a leading role in decorations for our town during events across a number of festivals and seasonal events. The Decoration Squad is formally a flexible team under our citizenship group, with its own identity proving that individual volunteers and representatives from groups in Pontefract can and will work together delivering results and improvements towards common goals under the leadership of an umbrella organisation, Pontefract Civic Society. Many of you will be aware that Pontefract won the Best Dressed Town award during the Tour de Yorkshire led by our squad, which enthused volunteers to build the largest lantern ever being seen in Pontefract Lantern Festival. I will admit my enthusiasm had to be guashed as it would have been even bigger if I was allowed, but wait until you see 2020's lantern!



Whilst our engagement for the Tour de Yorkshire started in January, in parallel to that we also planned our very first Community Showcase – this was one of the highlights of the year which proved beneficial not just to the public but for the networking opportunities for the organisations present. The 'proof of the pudding' is that most of the groups are still working and supporting each other, one year on.

During a busy year, the civic society was pleased to support the Friarwood Festival with myself being safety officer for the event using my previous experience as a large event manager; work such as this has been a void in the civic society capability which I have been happy to plug while developing contacts for future opportunities for us. Across the whole of 2019, it's been a year to celebrate not just the 50th anniversary, but the way we have been able to exploit opportunities to promote the town and the civic movement and a year in which I'm very proud to have been involved.

Citizenship Achievements	50th Anniversary Events Achieved
<ul> <li>New photoshoot screen for use at PR events proved popular</li> <li>Attended various events with our PR stall</li> <li>Engaged with Schools for the Tour de Yorkshire, and the Great British Spring Clean</li> <li>Christmas tree barriers 'community banners'</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Community Showcase</li> <li>Swing band concert</li> <li>Celebration afternoon tea</li> <li>A tree planted in Friarwood Valley Gardens</li> <li>Launch of Celebration beer "Civic 5X"</li> <li>Carols at Christmas</li> </ul>
Decoration Squad Achievements/Activities	Future Plans
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# Our 2020 Vision - more new developments ahead

This team is now focusing on the upcoming 75th Anniversary of VE Day, kicking off the town's celebrations with a town hall concert, followed by a programme across the town including talks, a film show, more entertainment and school involvement to mark this memorable occasion. The new members of the citizenship group are keen to expand the membership of the Junior Civic Society and we are looking at the possibility of including local youth groups by providing educational materials and possible tours, tailored to a younger audience, of our historic buildings and the town; something which we've trialled with St Giles CofE Academy at intervals during 2019.

#### **Phil Cook**

Vice Chair & Citizenship Group Coordinator

### **Rail Group**

The year began with platform extension work starting on Monkhill and Tanshelf Stations. This was done to a very high standard and enables the newer larger formed sets to use our stations. Also at this time, we were awarded a budget of £500 from Railfuture to benefit our campaigns. It would take many meetings to finalise how best to use this.

In February, data was examined on the on time trains site. It was observed that our services where performing well, with around 93% arriving within 10 minutes of the booked time. At a meeting in March of the Pontefract Area Rail Service group it was finally confirmed that the third Baghill to York train would be introduced in the May timetable change; this was long overdue. This group is comprised of officers and councillors, Northern Rail, Grand Central, and other invitees include Network Rail and Transport

for the North. Councillor Kim Groves has taking over a Chair of Transport of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority; she now chairs the service group mentioned, and is a breath of fresh air. I am therefore confident her enthusiasm and energy will serve us well in 2020, as she seems very sympathetic and knowledgeable about the plight of the Five Towns area.

Throughout the year there was grave concern for the survival of Baghill Station building. The DVLA moved out on several occasions and the local press and radio became involved. We continue to monitor this and are pushing the owners, Arch Properties, to restore and fully let the building.

In June the 'Friends of Pontefract Stations Group' was formed which is a 'station adoption scheme' run by Northern Rail. These titles are what they like to call community groups, though locally, we will still be known at Pontefract Civic Society's Rail Group. Since then, our campaigns have continued, and we planted some bulbs at Monkhill in late autumn; we have plans to plant wild meadow seed in 2020. Also in June, we were in attendance at the inaugural Yorkshire Coalfields Community Rail Partnership (YoCCRP). We were hoping for good things from this, but not much has happened since, although useful contacts were made. We then had the honour of hosting a meeting of Railfuture Yorkshire & Humber, which was held at the Central Methodist Church, and went very well, giving us further opportunities to make our points. What was also good for Pontefract, was that Railfuture Y&H had invited Cllr Kim Groves as a keynote speaker, and as well as speaking, she was also seen making many notes when our Chair, Paul Cartwright and I spoke about our poor rail services and stations.

At intervals throughout the year, I have also attended the District Consultation Sub-Committee [Leeds] (DCSC) meetings in Wakefield to represent Pontefract.



Autumn brought an invitation to speak at a large meeting of the Askern Station group, which appears to be gathering momentum. Our full support was given, as the project will be to our mutual benefit. In December our long awaited article in the local Pomfretian magazine was published, to draw attention to the York to Sheffield service, the only problem being that the introduction of the winter timetable meant the first train to York was brought forward by one and a half hours, which will cull the leisure market. The year ended in chaos throughout the system, with widespread delays and cancellations to all of our services. This was caused by the late arrival from the manufacturers of the new units, and bad planning by Northern introducing timetable changes.

2020 will be very challenging, as it now seems inevitable that the Government will take back the franchise. We can only hope the election promises will be fulfilled, and transport in the north will receive its fair share of the budget. Our targets have to be a better service on the Baghill Line, especially on a Sunday, better care of Baghill Station and the introduction of a Leeds to Doncaster service, via Pontefract of course!

#### **Dave Hogg**

Rail Group Coordinator

### **Highways Group**

There has been minimal success in 2019, if we are to measure completed projects, and our routine meetings with Wakefield MDC Highways Team have become fewer, thus a point that we must reverse in 2020.

The development of the Broad Lane/Southgate junction received a muted response from us, as it neither aids drivers nor pedestrians.

The installation of a pelican crossing and cycle/pram ramp on Stuart Road is welcomed, and is noted in the Planning Group report.

A number of accidents have occurred at the Town End junction, most of which have been due to driver error and ignorance of the Highway Code therefore we would still maintain our longheld view that the road layout as we have it now is much better then when it had traffic lights. We appreciate peak queues are inevitable, though you will read below the future plans to aid this. The civic society Chair, has noted an additional issue, though, which is worthy of some consideration and that is, how pedestrians move east-west across the junction, which is now creating longer delays for vehicles.



After much lobbying over a number of years, we have the promise of a number of potential highways developments, though we know all can't happen in 2020, but there is hope.

There is a small improvement planned for the junction of Ackworth Rd with Hardwick Road. Better pedestrian safety is the aim. Markings on the kerbstones indicate that this scheme is not too far off.

The road junctions scheme at **All Saints Church gyratory** should go ahead later this year with the addition of traffic lights at the Baghill Lane junction. A price tag of £2m is suggested and the works may well be carried out by Wakefield Highways and that funding has been requested by WMDC.

Park Road upgrade scheme outline plans have been produced; a dual carriageway from the Park entrance as far as the former Parkside Inn, then a gyratory scheme revolving around the railway line and including a new under bridge. This is aimed at improving traffic flows between the M62 and Pontefract. It is included in the latest plans for the South Featherstone Link Road. SFLR (formerly SELR).

South Featherstone Link Road (SFLR) - In December, the WMDC Cabinet approved the expenditure of £590,700 for the preparation of the outline business case, this is on top of £284,000 already spent on the strategic business case. This is serious money and suggests that there is now a will to go ahead. The whole scheme which now includes improvements to Commonside Lane, Old Snydale as well as the Park Road upgrade has a price tag of £103m.

In Sept 2020 there is to be a public consultation on this. Wakefield Council is addressing "green matters" and aims to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. Some people argue that building a new road will create more pollution, but surely it will be the same traffic moving more freely and producing fewer exhaust gases. Both our Highways Group and SELRAG (action group) suggest



that the scheme should be built in stages with priority being given to the western arm of the SFLR. This would take through traffic out of Ackworth and Featherstone and reduce the flows through Town End, Pontefract. All this has been debated at length over many decades. Previous investigations have all come out in favour of the Link Road as it ticks all the boxes for safety, congestion, pollution and connectivity.

Monkhill Station and Mill Dam - Some small budget works have included ticket machines and improved passenger shelters, though we need a more significant project, which the civic society tabled in 2010. Major works carrying a price tag of over £2.9 million for lifts, more car parking and toilets is under the control of Network Rail, as are improvements to the Station Approach Road before WMDC is willing to adopt. WMDC is working on improved pedestrian and cycle access, and our requests for improvements to Mill Dam Lane have not been met; though a road improvement on Mill Dam is in the hands of the property developer on the former Carlton Furniture Works site. It is possible that the All Saints' gyratory plan will alter traffic patterns in the area, and we will look at this with keen interest, again, once the gyratory is in place.

#### Derek Vaux

Highways Group Secretary

### **Talks & Tours Group**

### **Talks**

**January** - The year was kicked off by David Wilcox who gave us interesting facts about many long lost wonders of Pontefract, including an underground waterway and the need for pig licenses!

March - We were taken on a meandering and entertaining

virtual journey by Anthony Poulton-Smith around the UK, confirming where today's place names originate from, whether the sources come from Germanic, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, Norse and other languages.

**April** - Eric Jackson spoke about the Almshouses in Pontefract and surrounding areas. It was a great surprise to me to find that some are still in use.

May - As part of our 50 year celebrations, Allan Blaza (a founding member and past President) answered questions put by our Chairman. On a personal note, I was amazed to hear the status of some of the former guests for the annual dinners invited by the then President, which included Lady Rosse (mother of Lord Snowdon) from Womersley Hall, Sir John Betjeman, Nikolaus Pevsner, Patrick Moore, and Princess Margaret, who was revealed to be a Lucky Strike chain smoker!

**June** - Our own Mollie Garbett gave us a history of Methodism in Pontefract. I was amazed to learn that the current Castle car park is the former site of one of the Churches.

**July** - We hosted Merran McRae, Wakefield CEO, and Ian Harvey, Civic Voice CEO who each gave a perspective on their work and how the future needs to look working with the civic movement.

**September** - Inside information, and a different view of our museum and Castle, from an exhibitor's prospective was given by Antonino Vella, Museums & Castle Manager at WMDC. It was very interesting to see the thought and preparation that it takes to best display items of historical interest.

**October** - Stunning infra-red aerial local images were shown by Eric Houlder. This gave a new perspective of our area, enabling us to see long lost roads, Roman villas and other long lost treasures.

**November** - Local raconteur Tom Dixon stood in at short notice to give us an insight into our former liquorice industry, elaborated by countless tales of mirth. The props Tom brought with him were fascinating, particularly a pair of liquorice shoes!

### **Business Visits**

In March, we were fortunate to have a guided tour of the massive premises of TJX Europe, located close to the A1M, between Pontefract and Knottingley. It was amazing to learn that all products sold at TK Maxx UK outlets pass through here. I was mesmerised watching the robots handle the cases on the packing lines; the future is here! It appeared to be a very good place to work, and the workforce (mainly locals) seemed very happy. In May, we visited Renewi, the South Kirkby Household Waste Recycling Centre for a second time in recent years.

In September, the Hitachi Maintenance Depot at Doncaster turned out to be an incredible place. We were shown underneath, and allowed in the cab of the spanking new Azuma sets that will be whisking us off to London, and many other places. The cab had many screens and displays, an awesome bit of kit.

### **Town Visits**

June brought our first Town visit to Halifax. We were shown around by our hosts from Halifax Civic Society starting with the Square Chapel and Piece Hall, then after lunch the Waterloo Memorial and Town Hall which were truly amazing. Later we went onto the "Streets in the sky", which are hidden above the



Market Hall, and have the mystery of Machu Picchu. I have always enjoyed Halifax, but to have had a 'backstage tour' is an experience I will never forget.

Our other visit was a trip to Howden, hosted by Howden Civic Society. The Town was very quaint and well kept. We then had an added bonus of being shown around a live archaeological dig that was in progress in the grounds of the Bishops Palace, behind the Minster. We were allowed to handle some very interesting finds which included the femur of a mule, and ask questions to the pair of enthusiastic historians.

#### Dave Hogg

Talks & Tours Group Coordinator

### **Planning Group**

The focus for the planning group is to regularly review development taking place throughout the year by looking at planning applications submitted to Wakefield Council affecting the Pontefract area. Comments of support or concern are made to the local authority and appear as public record; this can lead to proposals being revised, refused or even withdrawn. However, in January, we presented Design Awards for 2017 and 2018, which got the year off to a great start.

The group's comments have led to positive improvements in most cases, for example: the Pontefract Dentist shop front at 19 Beastfair was re-designed following our comments, the Old Grocers on Beastfair, the Post Office relocation to the WH Smiths, and the proposed cafe/bistro at 1 Market Place. Wakefield Council supported the planning group's comments to refuse the change of use to a taxi office on the property next to the Malt Shovel on Beastfair. These proposals all add to improve the appearance and the attractiveness of the town centre. The Leisure Hub development in Pontefract Park is well underway and due to be opened in the autumn of 2020. The facilities, which are not simply a swimming pool, are aimed at attracting many users from a wide catchment area. It is anticipated that the development will have an attractive appearance and will be an added focus for people across the east of the district. Time will tell, but what will happen on the old baths site has yet to be determined, though it will be considered within the emerging Pontefract Masterplan.

Major works funded by the national lottery and others have been completed at Pontefract Castle and the site has now been taken off the national 'Heritage at Risk' register. Archaeological work followed to undercover the foundations of the original main gatehouse (facing Baghill Lane) near the visitors' centre,

and a small bandstand, and a significant children's play area have been added as additional ways of attracting visitors, who might also stay a while longer. Outside of the castle grounds, on Castle Garth, a former private home has been gifted to the Elizabeth Love Trust as a museum for her collection of clocks, and local pottery and glassware, as well as other furnishings. Once some work has been done in the building, this too will add to Pontefract's cultural offer for visitors and locals alike.

The group carried out a review of the town's conservation areas and listed buildings, and it is felt that there's not a need to extend the conservation areas, however several properties have been suggested to add to the Local List in order to prevent demolition or removal. The latter includes Baghill Station, where repair work is taking place, and also the two telephone boxes outside the Market Hall main entrance require some level of heritage protection. Local listing is a way to preserve the heritage of the town and can be done by the local authority rather than English Heritage. The planning group continue to look at sites which would attract blue plaque opportunities, though this requires private funding and owners' consent; your ideas are welcome, especially if funded.

The former Magistrates Court is now operating as Magistrates Market which is an attractive antique centre with cafe facilities. This makes for a much improved focus to the northern gateway to the Market Place conservation area.

Further phases of housing are taking place on the Prince of Wales colliery site bringing housing development nearer to the town. The Stuart Road pedestrian crossing and cycle ramp help to link the new housing to the town centre via Colonel's Walk; the latter has yet to be enhanced as planned, which is contingent on further plans for the Tanshelf Improvement Area between WMDC and Wakefield District Housing. We will continue to review all aspects of pedestrian and cycle access to the town centre. With the above in mind, the Horsefair regeneration scheme ('Streets for People'), and the 'reconnecting' of the surrounds of the town centre present significant yet positive challenges within the emerging Pontefract Masterplan which will be unveiled shortly. The Civic Society has been specifically invited to participate in the planning consultation process.

We will continue to monitor all aspects of planning, alterations and improvement made in the Pontefract area with a view to improving the town for all residents and visitors, added to which, we will similarly keep an eye on Knottingley and Ferrybridge in future. The local economy, in particular the retail part associated with the 'High Street' and markets, are forever important, and Wakefield MDC will be conducting a review of the latter. Some

businesses and properties struggle to attract investment, thus owners and tenants need to be more innovative in developing sustainable business models. Let's hope that all new plans from the local authority and the private sector can give our town a boost.

#### **Peter Taylor**

Planning Group Coordinator

### Heritage Group

- Research supported towards the Elizabeth Moxon blue plaque
- Tours for other visitors
- Tours on Yorkshire Day
- Liquorice history banners (2 sets) Magistrates Market and Valley Gardens with the support of Wakefield Libraries and Museums archive for this project and others.
- Books launch of Roger Ellis book
- Heritage Open Days
- Barracks Interpretation Board in development by Christine Cartwright



### What's New for 2020?

 Ongoing research - early preparation towards VE Day celebrations, and support of a revamp of our heritage walks

### **Philip Henfrey**

Heritage Group Coordinator

# **HERITAGE OPEN DAYS REPORT**



### Discovering Pontefract's Hidden Heritage

Over two weeks in September, 16 venues threw open their doors in Pontefract and surrounding villages, to celebrate the 25th anniversary nationally of Heritage Open Days, and during our 50th anniversary year we took full advantage across the period of the festival between 13th and 15th and 19th to 22nd September, supported by announcements from Pontefract's Town Crier, John Turner, and with the added entertainment of the Liquorice Singers on Saturday 21st September.

We are really pleased that we have the support of venue owners and their volunteers who made this a great series of events. Visitor numbers were estimated in excess of 1,000, which included 60 pupils from St Giles CofE Academy who visited the town hall and former court cells. Not only did we have visitors from across Yorkshire, but additionally visitors from Southampton, Hastings, and even Australia, were all amazed at what Pontefract has to offer, and also how great the town centre is presented.

As well as our usual offering from St Giles Church, All Saints Church and St Michaels in Carleton, other churches have got on board, namely St Peter's Church, Kirk Smeaton, and St Edward the Confessor Church, Brotherton, and we hope to see all those and more on our schedule for 2020.

As well as historic buildings, it's equally important to bring stories of places and people to life with talks, tours, music, and displays which included tours of Pontefract's Market Place conservation area supported by an exhibition in the library, fuller tours of the

town hall including the former court cells, Ackworth Quaker School, the liquorice fields, the castle, the Masonic Hall, and Friarwood Valley Gardens.

Finally, a new treat for 2019, was 30 Gillygate, which was open to the public for the very first time. The building is a modest outwardly fronted former Victorian house and shop, now an office set back in a yard. One room has a very fine plaster ceiling, circa 1630, with a central diamond bordered by twining grape vines, which encloses oak leaves and acorns, whilst vine trails and bunches of grapes extend outwards from its corners. We are extremely grateful to the owners for allowing us access, and we hope that will continue too on future HODs.

### Paul Cartwright









Our annual Design Awards were held at the Pontefract Town Hall on Weds 29 Jan, 2020, where we commended the efforts of business owners, landlords, architects, contractors, funders and Wakefield Council by presenting eight framed certificates and the Countess of Rosse Façade of the Year plaque.

Eight awards were made to five projects which came out on top in the eyes of the judging panel from our Planning Group, having whittled down a shortlist of 14 projects. The winners were rightly recognised for their investment of time and money, their



creativity of design and innovation, and clear attention to detail, not to mention sustaining businesses and cultural destinations which are second to none.

The awards presented on the night celebrated projects completed from Nov 2018 up to 31 Oct, 2019, relating to improvements in shop fronts, business & public spaces, architecture & design, and place-making.

# **DESIGN AWARD WINNERS**





Façade of the Year Award - The Gentlemen's Quarter





Regeneration Award - Magistrates Market





Residential Award - Wakefield District Housing, The Circle





Heritage Award - Wakefield MDC, Pontefract Castle





Improvement Award - The Blue Bell





**Special Commendation** - The Blue Bell





**Special Commendation** - Magistrates Market





Special Commendation - The Gentlemen's Quarter

## **TRUSTEES**

### **Our Trustees**

Chairman	Paul Cartwright
Vice Chairman	Phil Cook
Secretary	Karl Gilbert
Treasurer	lan Wood
Planning Group Coordinator	Peter Taylor
Talks & Tours / Rail Group Coordinator	Dave Hogg
Co-opted	Dr Colin White

### **Our Working Groups**

### **Planning Group**

Peter Taylor (Coordinator)
Philip Henfrey (Deputy)
Karl Gilbert (Secretary)
Christine Cartwright
Paul Cartwright

#### **Highways Group**

David Hogg (Coordinator) Anthony Dee (Deputy) Derek Vaux (Secretary)

Peter Cookson

### Rail Group

Dave Hogg (Coordinator) Peter Cookson Philip Henfrey

Chris Hyomes Paul Cartwright

Anthony Dee Ian Wood

Rosemary Barnes

### Heritage Group

Philip Henfrey (Coordinator)
Phil Cook
Karl Gilbert

#### Citizenship Group

Phil Cook (Coordinator)

Sue Gilbert

Gill Lodge (until Jul, 2019)

Paul Cartwright

Christine Cartwright

Claire MacDonald

Karl Gilbert

Joanne Draper

Carol Trueman

### Talks & Tours Group

Dave Hogg (Coordinator)
Colin White (Deputy)
Karl Gilbert (Secretary)
Mike Skidmore
Claire MacDonald
Paul Cartwright
Mollie Garbett

### Report of the Trustees for the Period Ending 31st December 2019

The Trustees, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31st December, 2019.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the SORP accounting policies set out by our Treasurer.

### Structure, governance and management

Pontefract Civic Society is a registered charity governed by constitution. The organisation is viable by self-generated income from subscriptions and events. Project funding is developed through grant opportunities. There are no plans to recruit an Executive Director, and we intend on the trustees continuing to manage the charity on a voluntary basis. In the long term, paid roles may be considered, should new income or grants sustain a different business model.

#### Recruitment and appointment of trustees

As set out in the Constitution, the Chair of Trustees is nominated by the membership. The trustees are set out in this report and are those in place at AGM. The Board of Trustees has the power to co-opt trustees, as necessary.

### Trustee induction and training

The Trustees maintain a good working knowledge of charity and charity law and best practice. Attendance at charity training courses as deemed applicable.

### Organisation

The Charity is controlled by a Board of Trustees. The day to day running of the charity is divided amongst these trustees with specific roles and responsibilities as required.

### Charitable objectives and activities

The Society is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising Pontefract and District which area shall hereinafter be referred to as "the area of benefit":

(i) To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit.

- (ii) To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit.
- (iii) To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.

### Public benefit

In furtherance of the said purposes, but not otherwise, the Society through its Executive Committee shall have the following powers:

- 1. To promote civic pride in the area of benefit.
- 2. To promote research into subjects directly connected with the objects of the Society and to publish the results of any such research.
- To act as a co-ordinating body and to co-operate with the local authorities, planning committees and all other statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, charities and persons having aims similar to those of the Society.
- 4. To promote or assist in promoting activities of a charitable nature throughout the area of benefit.
- 5. To publish papers, reports and other literature.
- 6. To make surveys and prepare maps and plans and collect information in relation to any place, erection or building of beauty or historic interest within the area of benefit.
- 7. To hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions.
- 8. To educate public opinion and to give advice and information.
- 9. To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation and otherwise; provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its primary purpose. To acquire, by purchase, gift or otherwise, property, whether subject to any special trust or not
- 10. Subject to such consents as may be required by law, to sell, let, mortgage, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or funds of the Society as shall be necessary.
- 11. Subject to such consents as may be required by law, to borrow or raise money for the purposes of the Society on such terms and on such security as the Executive Committee shall think fit, but so that the liability of individual members of the Society shall in no case extend beyond the amount of their respective annual subscriptions.
- 12. To do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said purposes.

We do this by organising membership events, and reaching out to non-members to attend public talks and meetings in accessible locations and venues. A number of free public meetings are organised and publicised, which ensures the Society remains accessible, financially viable and sustainable.

#### Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- 1. An annual review of the risks
- 2. The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate risk
- 3. Implementation of the procedures designed to minimise any potential impact should those risks materialise

#### Role and contribution of volunteers

Pontefract Civic Society celebrates its commitment to a diverse and skilled volunteer team, and whilst some members have worked hard, it has been patchy. There is much more to do, and volunteers are openly welcomed.

#### Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities showed a surplus of £2,144.

#### Reserves policy

In accordance with the advice of the Charity Commission, the charity aims to hold unrestricted reserves at levels of approximately 12 months of budgeted unrestricted expenditure, to meet unforeseen costs and statutory obligations.

#### Future plans and developments

The main priority is to create a blend of experience and 'younger blood', supplemented by relevant governance controls and trustee training, to deliver operational plans:

- To continue working in partnership with public, private, and third sector stakeholders
- To increase our membership with a broader demographic and encourage active participation
- To develop our Business Member scheme for the benefit of all parties and the town
- To develop a more strategic Board
- To diversify income generation
- To manage capacity building for delivery projects of benefit to the town
- To develop policies and procedures recommended by the Charity Commission
- To further implement the use of free online technologies with trustees and other key volunteers

On behalf of the Board **Karl Gilbert**Honorary Secretary

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

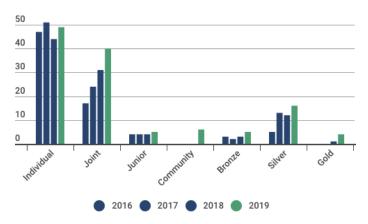
As part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations, the decision was made to lower our membership fees to £5 for individual memberships and £8 for joint memberships (non-email membership fees remained unchanged) and brought into effect for new memberships from September 2018 onwards. As a result, we saw an increase in membership subscriptions throughout 2019, with many having already chosen to renew their membership in 2020.

We welcomed 20 new 'individual' members and 24 new 'joint' members to the society. We also welcomed 2 new Bronze businesses members, 9 new Silver business members and 4 new Gold business members. As ever, we will continue to work and consult with businesses throughout 2020 to ensure that we continue to create mutually beneficial relationships and evolve our offering to meet the needs of our current and prospective business members.

I look forward to another successful year and will continue to strive towards increasing and improving the profile of Pontefract as a great place to live, work and visit.

### Karl Gilbert

**Honorary Secretary** 





19%

Increase in individual and joint memberships over 2018



56%

Increase in business memberships over 2018

# TREASURER'S REPORT

I can confirm that all expenditure has been correctly dual authorised, prior to processing payments promptly, when due, and properly allocated/accounted for. I would like to thank Christopher Hyomes for an effective independent examination of our 2019 Annual Accounts.

Our income in 2019 (£12,125) is made up principally of annual subscriptions amounting to £2,173, events revenue amounting to £3,827 which has been greatly enhanced as a result of a varied programme of events celebrating our Golden Jubilee, and combined sales of various books, calendars, pens and pin badges amounting to £1,709.

During the year the Trustees successfully submitted a claim to HMRC for gift aid on retrospective eligible subscriptions amounting to £705. Future claims will now be made on an annual basis.

Annual subscription rates for 2019 for "individual" and "joint" memberships were reduced from £15 to £5 and from £20 to £8 respectively for one year to celebrate our 50th birthday, and to increase membership levels; the latter was moderately successful, though in net terms outside of our 'Decoration Squad' we had hoped for more individual members who might become more active, and subsequently the rates for 2020 will revert back to the 2018 rates without any further increase. The shortfall in "individual" and "joint" membership income has however been offset by an increase in "business" membership income combined with the introduction of a new "community group" category, both of which being welcomed.

Our net costs in 2019 after adjusting for the transfer of funds between accounts amounted to £9,981 which was substantially higher than in the previous year and reflected a year of considerable activity. Significant items of expenditure included the cost of events and meeting rooms (£3,205) and equipment and PR materials (£1,633). Printing costs of books and calendars amounted to £2,458, which included £1,192 for a new publication "The Fletcher Rhodes Collaboration". In keeping with previous years the Society has made donations to various local projects including Pontefract in Bloom and St Giles Pantomime Society totalling £553. The majority of the other aspects of the Society's expenditure are broadly in line with earlier years.

Ian Wood - Treasurer

Pontefract Civic Society Charity Commission number 513509

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2019

Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Income		2019	2018
	Annual subscriptions received	£ 2,173	£ 2,180
	Gift aid	£ 705	£ -
	Blue plaques	£ -	£ -
	Grants	£ 2,937	£ 15,802
	Donations	£ 593	£ 229
	Events revenue	£ 3,827	£ 1,098
	Book, calendar, pen and badge sales	£ 1,709 £ 181	£ 1,530 £ -
	Recharge cost of design award plaques Legacies	£ 181 £ -	£ -
	Sub-Total	£ 12,125	£ 20,839
Income from moneta		L 12,123	L 20,037
	Transfers between accounts	£ 929	£ -
	Loan	£ -	£ -
	Bank interest	<u>£</u> -	£ -
	Total Income	£ 13,054	£ 20,839
Expenditure		2019	2018
Direct	charitable expenditure:		
	Civic Voice	£ 107	£ 482
	YHACS	£ 175 £ 25	£ 50 £ 21
	Railfuture Events & meetings	£ 3,205	£ 893
	Donations	£ 5,203	£ 763
	Sub-Total	£ 4.065	£ 2,209
	Sub Total	L 4,005	L 2,207
Other	Expenditure incurred:		
	Membership refunds	£ -	£ -
	Insurance	£ 579	£ 552
	Printing & Postage	£ 116	£ 24
	Student's Expenses	£ - £ 116	£ 40 £ -
	Grants expenditure Transfers between accounts	£ 929	£ -
	Book Printing	£ 2,096	£ 490
	Calendar Printing	£ 362	£ 264
	Pin Badges	£ 189	£ -
	Grants Repayment	£ -	£ -
	PHG Profit Share on Book Sales	£ -	£ 100
	Business support costs	£ 198	£ -
	PR Materials	£ 1,633	£ 954
	Website	£ 36	£ 30
	Travel costs	£ 24	£ -
	I T Equipment	£ 180	£ -
	Membership related costs	£ 387	£ 335
	Sub-Total	£ 6,845	£ 2,789
	expenditure incurred	£ 10,910	£ 4,998
Overall Excess/Defi	icit of Income over Expenditure	£ 2,144	£ 15,841
Statement of Assets	of Liabilities as at 31 December 2019		
Monetary Assets		2019	2018
Barclays Communit	v A/c (current)	£ 26,120	£ 24,476
Paypal A/c	,	£ 500	£ -
Totals		£ 26,620	£ 24,476
Reconciliation of case	sh movements to bank balances		
Opening bank balan		£ 24,476	£ 8,635
Total cash receipts		£ 13,054	£ 20,839
Less: Expenditure		£ 10,910	£ 4,998
Total cash inflow		£ 2,144	£ 15,841
Closing bank balanc	es	£ 26,620	£ 24,476
Treasurer: I Wood (2	2019)		
Christopher Hyomes	5	P Cartwright	
Independent Examir		Chairman PCS	
pae =aiiiii			

# Donations & Bequests

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

This Annual Report show the tremendous work the society and our members are doing to make Pontefract a better place. To continue our important work at its present level, or in fact expand it as we plan to do, then we have a pressing need for more resources.

The beneficial position of the society is both it's independence and non-political stance, and that we do not rely of public sector grants to conduct our core activities. As the town's watchdog on planning, architecture, heritage and public amenities, we can speak on behalf of those who live and work in Pontefract, without fear or favour.

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

# **2020 EVENTS**

**Jan** 12 - 18

**Snow Queen Pantomine** 

Pontefract Town Hall

Jan 21 "Tyke Talk"

A talk by Eric Scaithe
7pm | Pontefract Town Hall

**Jan** 29

**Design Awards 2019** 

Celebrating built environment projects 6pm | Pontefract Town Hall

Feb 11 "Battle of Towton"

An illustrated talk by David Skillern 7pm | Pontefract Town Hall

Feb 18

**Annual General Meeting** 

7pm | Pontefract Town Hall

Mar 10 "Distinguished Guests of the Civic Society"

Allan Blaza

7pm | Pontefract Town Hall

Mar 14 **Haley Sisters Gig** 

Top country band with close female harmonies Pontefract Town Hall

**Mar** 21 - 28

Pontefract Music & Drama Festival

Various venues

Mar 28

**Community Showcase** 

10am | Pontefract Town Hall

Apr 14 "Pontefract Castle"

Ian Downes

7pm | Pontefract Town Hall

May 1

**VE Day Concert** 

7pm | Pontefract Town Hall

May 12 "Ebor to York"

Karen Adams

7pm | Pontefract Town Hall

June 9 "The Discovery of Domesday Pontefract"

Eric Houlder

7pm | Pontefract Town Hall

June

Armed Forces Day

Pontefract Park

Jul 4

Proms at the Castle

Pontefract Castle

Jul 5 Pontefract Liquorice Festival

Pontefract Town Centre, Friarwood Valley Gardens & Pontefract Castle

Jul 14 "Mrs Fawcett's Handbag: a suffragettes tale"

An illustrated talk by Sharron Garner 7pm | Pontefract Town Hall

Aug 1 Yorkshire Day

Pontefract Town Centre, Pontefract Castle & Friarwood Valley Gardens

Aug 22

Friarwood Festival

Friarwood Valley Gardens

**Sep** 8

"Vikings in Yorkshire"

An illustrated talk by Joyce Hill 7pm | Pontefract Town Hall

**Sep** 11 - 20

**Heritage Open Days** 

Various locations around Pontefract

Oct 13 "Gunpowder Plot"

An illustrated talk by Eric Jackson 7pm | Pontefract Town Hall

Oct 17 Pontefract Lantern Festival

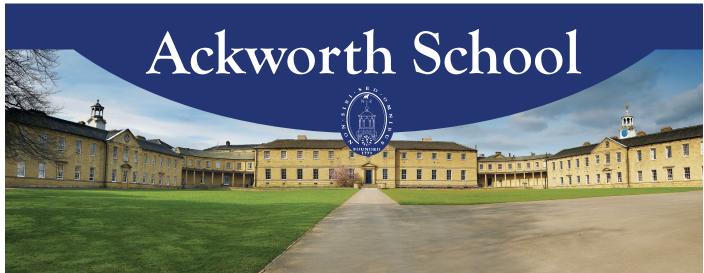
6pm | Pontefract Town Centre, Pontefract Castle & Friarwood Valley Gardens

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**Nov** 10

"A day in the life of a Yorkshire Coal Miner"

An illustrated talk by David Hogg 7pm | Pontefract Town Hall





What is inspirational teaching worth?



What is confidence worth?



What is high achievement worth?







# It's ACKWORTH



A Foundation for Life www.ackworthschool.com

Tel: +44 (0)1977 611401 Email: admissions@ackworthschool.com

- GOLD MEMBER -





- GOLD MEMBER -



- GOLD MEMBER -

- GOLD MEMBER -- GOLD MEMBER -



- SILVER MEMBER -



- SILVER MEMBER -



- SILVER MEMBER -



- SILVER MEMBER -



- SILVER MEMBER -



- SILVER MEMBER -



Panda IT Solutions Complete Business & Home Care

- SILVER MEMBER -



- SILVER MEMBER -

**SUZI'S BOUTIQUE** 



- SILVER MEMBER -

whitegates

- SILVER MEMBER -



- SILVER MEMBER -



- SILVER MEMBER -



- SILVER MEMBER -



- SILVER MEMBER -

- BRONZE MEMBER -



**BP PHYSIOTHERAPY** 



- BRONZE MEMBER -



- BRONZE MEMBER -



- BRONZE MEMBER -

- BRONZE MEMBER -

