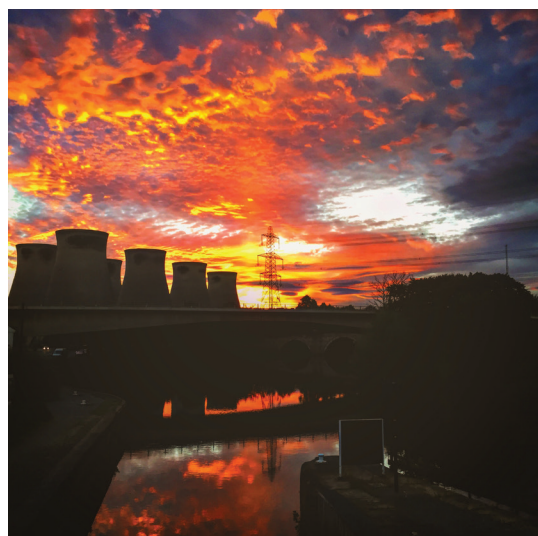
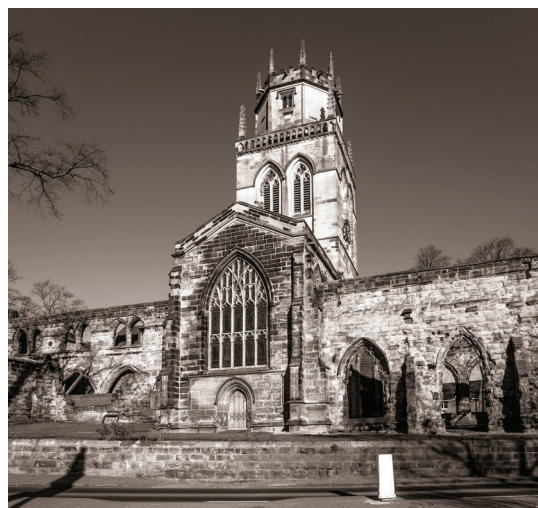


ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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Acknowledgements

Executive Committee Meeting Venue:

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Richard Metcalfe and all the staff at Rogerthorpe Manor Hotel for their hospitality.

Photographs courtesy of:

Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens

Pontefract Heritage Group

Pontefract and Castleford Express

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CHAIR'S REVIEW OF 2017



2017 has been an incredibly busy year for myself and our Secretary, Karl Gilbert, in particular, as we seek to continue to redirect and modernise the civic society from simply lobbying and talks, to an organisation that builds relationships, promotes heritage and tourism, and increases our membership base for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors.

Engaging Business

Our drive to attract business members to the society commenced in February with a meeting with Anton Maree, Ackworth School Head, and others have followed.

We've met formally and informally with a number of our business members throughout the year, and we've attended two networking events at Rogerthorpe Manor Hotel, and an Interserve business networking event in Leeds. Following a meeting with William H Brown's, we secured advertising space in their Tito door drop magazine where we coordinated an advert for Civic Day, Armed Forces Day, and Proms at the Castle.

Liaison on the Prince of Wales residential development has continued with Harworth Estates, who also arranged a meeting for us with Frank Knight, site agent.

Promoting Pontefract

We have worked extensively showcasing Pontefract, commencing the year with our 2016 Design Awards being presented at the 2017 AGM, highlighting some great improvements and new developments in architecture and regeneration.

A small party of pupils from Carleton Park J&I (our Junior Civic Society) were given a guided heritage walk around the town centre, where they used iPads to take photographs for their project.

I delivered a talk at Howden Civic Society on Pontefract and Pontefract Civic Society in May, which was followed by a guided evening walk around the Market Place Conservation Area in June.

I've been interviewed by BBC Radio Leeds, Ridings FM, and Valley Radio, all of which is good for the town.

Our Rail Sub-Group has been giving out a postcard or a business card to rail users to gather support, and we were very fortunate in July to have the campaigning organisations RailFuture Y&H bring their meeting to St Giles, where considerable time was allocated to discuss Pontefract's issues.)

I invited Mark Burns-Williamson, Police & Crime Commissioner,



to meet with us in Pontefract Town Hall in September, to present issues of anti-social behaviour in the town centre and Friarwood Valley Gardens. We have yet to see the benefits of that meeting.

I delivered a heritage walk for a group of Carers Wakefield in October, which was very well received.

We've promoted the retail and business offer for Yorkshire Day, and with our Christmas Trail which had significantly increased response from businesses by comparison with previous years. Throughout the year, we have also supported our business members through social media, at our talks, and in our photographic calendar.

Roger Ellis' book "Chequered Fields" was launched and is selling well.

Early discussions on a military heritage project for 2018, commenced just before Christmas.

Working with Wakefield MDC and West Yorkshire Combined Authority

We have met a few times with WYCA, local councillors and Northern Rail to push for improvement in service provision. Our lobbying goes on.

Scoping our strategic relationship with Wakefield Council commenced at a meeting with Cllrs Peter Box & Denise

Jeffery, where I and Ian Hookham represented the civic society in February. This led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on 17 Jun, Civic Day. This also delivered a surprise to us at the Civic Voice Convention with the presentation of a Civic Day Award for this initiative. Our quarterly Senior Meetings with Cllr D Jeffrey & Andy Wallhead (Corporate Director - Regeneration & Economic Growth) have continued.

Seeing an opportunity to maximise greater use of Pontefract Town Hall, Karl Gilbert, Ian Hookham and I embarked upon a series of meetings at different points in the year with Mike Denby, John Hufton, Kevin Fisher & Lisa Casey, all of whom are thanked for the support and information, which resulted in signed MOU for Pontefract Town Hall.

I met on tourism and events with Cllrs Les Shaw & Denise Jeffery, though this has yet to yield the changes I feel are necessary. In October, Peter Cookson and I met with Karen Collins, Service Director for Leisure & Wellbeing for the proposed leisure hub, a project which is an exciting opportunity for the town, though with some challenges; we now await the planning application.

During the autumn, a working group was established by Wakefield Council to coordinate the development of interpretation boards and tourist map boards around the town centre, in which we were invited to participate, the results will be delivered in 2018. We have also been an integral part of the core team producing a 2028 draft vision for Pontefract, though the devil will be in the detail.

Civic Pride

The Big Conservation Conversation was the theme for Civic Day 2017 (which continues into 2018), and we focused on our four conservation areas through a PR display in the library, which started for two weeks, and lasted till Christmas. We are thankful to Liz Whitworth, Lynne Loy and the library team for their support.

As well as joining with an event at Pontefract Castle, we also created a school pupils litter poster competition, with an awards presentation in the library. The pupils' work was extensively displayed in the library, and in spring 2018 we will see some of that work in Friarwood Valley Gardens and around the town.

Networking with Civic Voice, YHACS and other civic societies

We've supported the YHACS AGM in Harrogate and meetings in Barnsley (Christine and I attend with one of our members, Rosemary Barnes), and Hornsea in July. I've participated in a number of YHACS Committee meetings in York, as well as the YHACS Futures meeting in Wakefield.

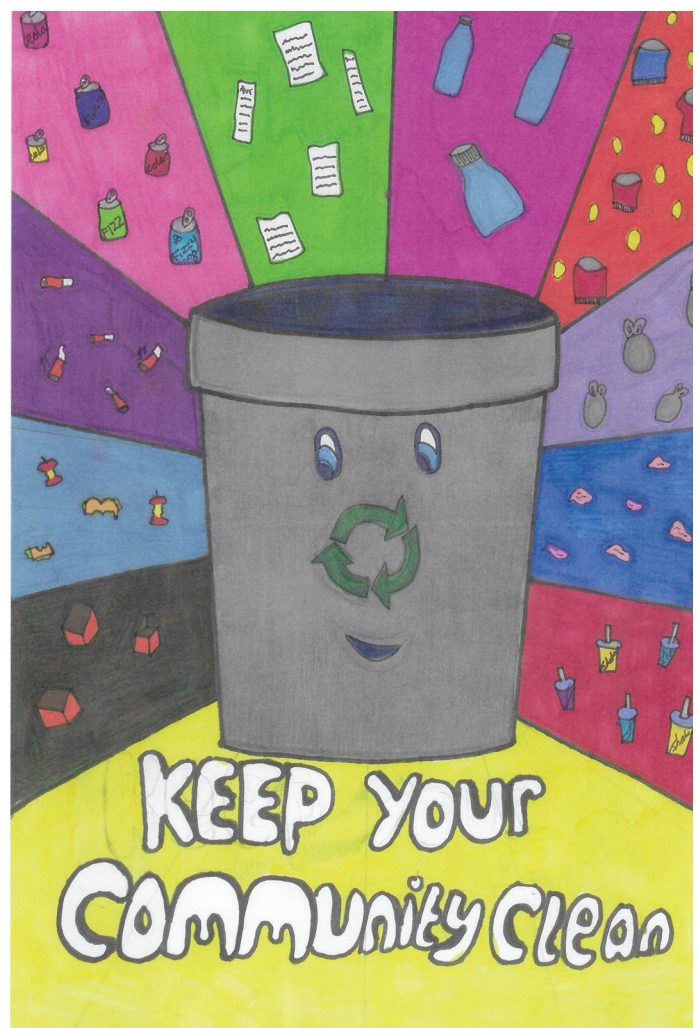
We've met separately with Leeds Civic Trust and Bradford Civic Society to share ideas on events and recruitment. Pontefract Civic Society participated in the Civic Voice Annual Convention & AGM in Wakefield, where I was also invited to co-lead two workshops on the Civic Voice Healthcheck for civic societies, which I did with Margaret Clarke from Goole, and our sessions were very well attended.

Finally, I've represented YHACS at three Civic Voice Regional Forum meetings, one in London and two in Birmingham.

All trustees, committee members and other volunteers are also thanked for your effort, large or small, which has contributed in so many ways covered elsewhere in this annual report.

In closing, my main plea to passive members and those reading this who may consider joining the Pontefract Civic Society, is that the town will be much poorer if we do nothing. On the other hand, if we all contribute by working together with other local organisations and interested parties, who really do care about Pontefract, then our town will be even better and the rewards will follow.

Paul Cartwright
Chairman



SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is my great pleasure to present the Secretary's Report for 2017. The year marked my third in the role of secretary and has been a very busy one, with a great deal having been achieved within the society.

We set out in 2017 with an ambition to grow our business memberships and successfully managed an 88% increase over 2016, rising from 8 to 15. This is obviously great news for the society, as we primarily rely on membership subscriptions for income, but it also shows a definite desire on behalf of local businesses to improve the town.

In response to the uptake of business memberships, we started looking at our business member offering and explored ways in which we could work together to see positive change. This resulted in a number of additions to the offering, aimed at greater business promotion and the introduction of a new "Gold" business membership tier for 2018, which we hope will see uptake throughout the year. However, this is an iterative process and we will continue to work and consult with businesses throughout 2018 to ensure that we continue to create mutually beneficial relationships with the business community.

Individual and joint memberships also saw a positive increase over 2016, rising from 64 to 75. Overall, we welcomed 35 new 'individual', 'joint' and 'business' members into the society throughout 2017.

I continued to strive towards increasing the quality of our public facing materials, and have designed a number of publications throughout the year including a promotional booklet for Heritage Open Days, a Christmas trail map aimed at families and a 2018 Calendar. I also introduced another redesign of the website, which has allowed us to process purchases online. We also decided to make a departure from Golden Giving, which we had been using to process membership payments, after they introduced a processing charge. We have now started using PayPal to receive online payments, which has the added benefit of allowing us to manage the whole online membership process through our own website.

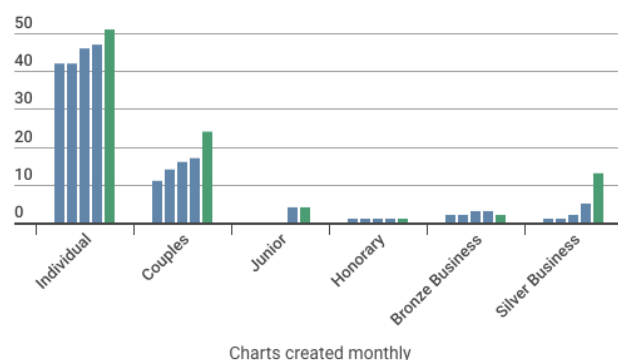
We continued to support and have a presence at local community events throughout the year, holding stalls at Armed Forces Day, Yorkshire Day, Civic Day and a community fun day at Pontefract Park, amongst others. This allowed us to not only to reach potential new members, but to engage with the community which

we serve.

2018 promises to be another busy and exciting year for the society, with foundations laid in 2017 to be built upon and new achievements to be made. 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



COMMITTEE REPORTS



Conservation, Environment & Planning Report

Once again 2017 proved to be a busy year with a number of development projects being completed within the town centre.

The “heritage” of the town is reflected very much by its buildings and spaces. The medieval street pattern and older buildings are worthy of the protection afforded Conservation Area or Listed Building status. Pontefract is fortunate to have four Conservation Areas adjoining.

- Market Place
- The Castle (which extends to Horsefair and Nortgate)
- The Mount
- Button Park Friarwood (includes Valley Gardens & Dispensary)

There is a high concentration of ‘listed buildings’ within the Market Place, less so in the Castle. Most can be identified because the modern infill buildings often stand out like a sore thumb (not in character).

The Townscape Heritage Initiative has helped focus attention on Market Place and although it is coming to an end in 2018 will continue to have a significant impact. Private investment has been attracted as a result. The CEP committee has monitored these THI schemes as well as other planning applications in the wider area. We have been able to anticipate and comment on schemes, in a constructive way, before any work is carried out. We have also been able to ensure traditional shopfronts and

heritage colours are used.

We have also reviewed whether other areas of the town could be classed as Conservation Areas and the listing of other significant buildings e.g. Baghill Station, which whilst partly used, remains neglected and in need of investment, which we’d prefer to see improved.

Some of the town centre improvements include the former Holmes properties on Gillygate plus Pickering’s Butchers, and on Market Place, Broskill’s Opticians, with work due to start soon on the Red Lion, Liquorice Bush and the old Airedale Computers shop. Ropergate Health is also much improved. Cornmarket is also to be improved by work on the Court House in 2018.

One new member has been attracted to the CEP committee to consider the development of heritage publications.

Whilst the Civic Society has looked at the possibility of more Blue Plaques in the town we have found it difficult to attract funding to do this, though heritage information boards are about to be delivered in 2018.

The CEP committee has recently altered our approach, focusing more on the planning applications appearing on the Council’s monthly lists. Improved links with Council officers and other community groups have resulted. Comments from the public are listened to and worth making. New members to the Society are very welcome.

Peter Taylor
CEP Chair

Land Use & Transport Report

In various ways, 2017 has been characterised by delays; things we expected to happen haven't yet materialised. A good example of this is the anticipated improvement in road junctions on the A645 (Knottingley) road that we expected would have been started by now. An engineer has been appointed to look at this problem again and we now expect results from this exercise to be made known in 2018. The current thinking is that traffic signals at the staggered junction of All Saints/Aldi would have the benefit of improving that difficult junction, while at the same time having beneficial knock-on effects on the Baghill Lane and Box Lane junctions. The junctions at Friarwood Lane and Cobblers Lane are probably too far away to be materially affected by this.

The junctions to the A645 from Friarwood Lane and Cobblers Lane have also featured in our discussions and we will continue to do so, but, so far, there are no plans for these, even though the intersection from Friarwood Lane is far from satisfactory.

We continued to press for an early proposal for Mill Dam (Hope & Anchor to the Railway Hotel), which is an important link between the considerably increased residential areas across the north and south of Pontefract. We also sought the early consideration of an integrated transport plan for the Monkhill area surrounding the station, incorporating both road and rail.

Elsewhere, new housing on the Prince of Wales site is progressing at such a rate that egress from that site on to Skinner Lane is now being constructed. We have made a number of representations for improvements at the Skinner Lane rail bridge and also on the intimidating walk for pedestrians, but these have largely been to

no avail, beyond a widening of the existing pavements.

We have also discussed at length the problems of the A639 (Park Road) in light of the proposed developments along that route. With more housing proposed for the former Parkside Inn site, the new leisure hub in the park, and industrial development around the Travis Perkins site, it is acknowledged that the problems here are challenging. The civic society is not generally against such development but we have urged Wakefield Council to consider dualling the road from the junction at Beechnut Lane to the roundabout at the park, instead of maintaining the short three lane section that causes such backing-up problems on Jubilee Way and for vehicles leaving Stuart Road via the underpass. The expectation is that the planning application for the leisure hub will emerge imminently and any road adjustments may come as a result of that.

We have maintained a good relationship with Wakefield Council and have met with officers on a quarterly basis to share our thoughts on all highways and rail matters.

On a larger canvas, it has been an encouraging year for considerations of the Ackworth/Featherstone/Pontefract bypass. The sterling work done by the Ackworth based action group over decades and supported by the civic society, has now seen some movement with support from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority funding for the feasibility study and we hope the outcome of this in 2018, will draw down funding for the next steps. The project, now called the South Featherstone Link Road, will be considered in phases, from Ackworth through to Featherstone connecting onto the A645 near Lin Pac. We now await progress after many years of hard lobbying.





Rail Report

The promised benefits from the new Northern Rail Franchise award to Arriva North have, for one reason or another, been again subject to delays, although the promise of an improved Sunday service to Leeds was delivered in the December timetable. This is now hourly from Knottingley and Pontefract to Leeds, alternately via Featherstone and Castleford. The weekday doubling of service has been delayed until the May 2018 timetable change, but this may be delayed even further by a shortage of rolling-stock as a result of late-running electrification schemes in the Manchester/Preston area. This is not yet known. After vigorous representations from the society for the forthcoming Huddersfield-Castleford service to be extended to Glasshoughton and Pontefract, we were bitterly disappointed to learn that this cannot be achieved at present, due to timetabling difficulties arising out of problems with line speeds being still too low in our district. This is an urgent problem we wish to raise with Network Rail at our next meeting with WYCA. Line speeds, which still seem to relate to an era when large numbers of coal trains were using routes across the Aire Valley power stations, are a major factor in holding back the improvement of passenger services, the Grand Central service to London, and the development of other through-services that would be appropriate for this district.

Last year offered us the opportunity to respond to the East Midlands Franchise consultation, concentrating on two proposals we thought would benefit Pontefract, but would also improve connectivity for the wider district with Lincolnshire and the East Midlands. We gave our enthusiastic support to a proposed Leeds-Lincoln service via Pontefract and Doncaster, and also to a Leicester-York/Scarborough service using the Baghill line. Neither of these options were taken up by Northern Rail, but we await the franchise document from East Midlands in the hope

that these services (supported by WYCA) might be taken up there.

The letting of these two franchises required us to concentrate our effort on service patterns but we fully realise that this should not be our only concern. Infrastructure and accommodation at our three stations is also of much concern to us.

Because of its various connections, Monkhill is always likely to be our principal station, notwithstanding its location a mile from the town centre and we submitted a plan (Oct 2013) that would enhance it, if it were to be acted upon. Realistically, this may have to be achieved in stages from various transport funding streams, as they arise, to realise the much-needed improvements. Tanshelf, though much closer to the town centre, college and leisure facilities, is likely to remain secondary to Monkhill, because it is not a junction-station, and does not have the same connections. Even so, we look for improvements there, too.

Baghill is in a different category. Even though it has by far the worst services of the three, it is situated on a former mainline and has good potential North/South connections via Sheffield and York. Our effort here has been to argue for a realistic cross-country service, but also that the building (largely intact) is protected for future use.

In order to draw attention to the three stations, the Rail Sub-Group has mounted an exhibition in the Library, which is still on view at the present time.

There is still much to do and we look for some improvements during 2018.

Peter Cookson
LUT Chair
Rail Sub-Group Chair



Publicity, Events & Administration Report

The year started off in February with the AGM which included the Design Awards. These are prestige awards and are coveted by local businesses. These awards and the business carried through at the AGM were covered in the relevant articles in the Pontefract Civic Society Newsletters earlier this year.

On the evening of Monday 6th March Roger Ellis gave us a talk on J S Fletcher. Yorkshire's most prolific author. Entitled J S Fletcher's Local Scenes- A novelist's journey through Osgoldcross. It was held in the small ballroom in the Grange. A talk involved readings and slides. This lecture persuaded me to read some of Fletcher's work, which are well worth a go.

All our talks throughout the rest of the year were held in Saint Mary's Centre, The Circle, Chequerfield. The room we used was spacious and the building relatively new.

The Civic Society wasn't directly involved, but it worth mentioning that the Pontefract Music Festival took place, starting on Friday 24th March and continued that weekend and finished the following weekend.

On April 5th Adrian Spawforth, Managing Director of Spawforths presented a talk on The Growth, Prosperity and Identity of the Five Towns. Personally, I found this a fascinating talk with a wealth of detail not easily available; about our local area and future predictions with the increase of population taken into account. Adrian answered a number of questions afterwards. In May, on the 24th the Civic Society arranged a tour of Multifuel

1 in Ferrybridge. Unfortunately, I was too late to book a place and cannot really comment, but it certainly would have been interesting. It uses a range of fuel sources, including waste-derived fuels from various sources of municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste and waste wood. The plant takes fuels from across Yorkshire and the wider region. It has a capacity of 68MW and cost in the region of £300 million to build. (Multifuel 2 is in the process of construction).

June, of course is an extremely busy month when comes to events in Pontefract. On 4th was Pontefract Cycle Festival and on Sunday 11, the Castle hosted picnic in the Castle.

In Saint Mary's on Wednesday 14th, the President of Wakefield Civic Society, Kevin Trickett, gave us a talk entitled Heritage: A Load of Old Hat? Numerous slides were exhibited and Kevin posed the question of whether all that we think of as heritage is actually worth preserving. A question that would probably elicit a different answer from every person asked.

Saturday 17th was Civic Day with an emphasis on conservation and on Sunday 18th the town celebrated Armed Forces Day in the Park. I witnessed hundreds if not thousands of people attending, many of them young families. There were loads activities and displays and the weather was great as well. On Tuesday 4th July I and about fifteen other civic society members visited Shanks Recycling plant in South Kirkby. We were given a full and detailed explanation of how the plant operated, how the waste was separated and then recycled. On Saturday 8th West Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra played in the grounds of the Castle. The day was quite sunny, but there were not too many people in the grounds, maybe they were all shopping!

The next day was Pontefract Liquorice Festival. The only one in Britain, and what a day. The Civic Society had a stall, as we do on most events, plus we organised a tour of the Town Hall, given by one of the founder members of the society, Mr Alan Blaza. The centre of town was packed, just like last year and the year before. We get visitors from all over the country. Working on the stall we get a chance to talk to them and try and sell them a book or two on Pontefract and its industries etc. It's really great to see families enjoying themselves and we have been lucky with the weather over the past years. WMDC mainly organise the event and we have to thank them for that.

August 1st was, of course, Yorkshire Day. There were numerous activities and events, including in Friarwood Valley Gardens, the town centre, museum and the Castle. Being Tuesday, it didn't have quite the attendance that weekend events claim, but still many people took part.

September 7th till Sunday 10th the civic Society held its heritage Open days. Dr Claire McDonald being the executive member responsible for organising almost everything. And what a fantastic job she did. There were fourteen venues open for the public to visit, from tours of Ackworth school of which I attended to St Michael's Church, Carlton. The Conservative Club, the pinhole camera in Valley Gardens and a tour of Minden House Barracks being included. Most events were well attended showing that people do have an interest in their local area. On Wednesday 13th we held our monthly talk in Saint Mary's Centre. David Wilcox held the audience fascinated by his knowledge of The History of Ferrybridge from Stone Age to Present Day. David passed around pictures and maps for the audience to peruse. David was originally from Ferrybridge and

it surprising how things have changed since he was a boy there. Ferrybridge has quite an archaeological and a considerable industrial history, as anybody from there will know.

Saturday 14th was five Towns Community Day which was held in Pontefract Park. Fun and games was advertised and was well attended.

Wednesday 11th October saw Eric Holder deliver a talk entitled Coaching Memories. The talk was accompanied by a large number of and colourful slides detailing how coaches operated and how they looked. The talk was angled to the Yorkshire end of the route from London to the North. Loads of fascinating detail. Looking back on the talks given, it is impossible for me to pick a favourite. All interesting and, for me, persuasive enough for me to dig a little deeper into the subjects.

Finally, on the evening of Wednesday 6th December Pontefract Civic Society held their annual Christmas Dinner in Rogerthorpe Manor.

End of another year. The PEA committee members plus the Executive have been working hard to deliver the talks, Heritage Open Days and all the other ancillary events that it organised, assisted in or supported.

From the members of the PEA committee I would like to wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year.

Mike Skidmore
PEA Chair



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS REPORT



Pontefract's Heritage Open Days festival brought in visitors from across the region as well as allowing local people to explore 14 locations through guided walks and events across Pontefract and surrounding area covering social history, architecture, military links and the work of the Freemasons.

For 2017, it was great to include the former founding hospital now Ackworth School, a Quaker educational establishment since 1779. Other successes included The Crescent Cinema, which this year over two days received 254 visitors, Col Delany at Minden House explained the significance of our rich past military connections, and Pontefract Heritage Group in medieval dress took 48 people around the Market Place conservation area, whilst Allan Blaza provided a wealth of knowledge on Pontefract Town Hall and in particular the obscure link to Nelson's Column in London. The Liquorice Fields of Pontefract were admirably covered by Tom Dixon at the family home.

We are thankful to the visitors, whom we hope are more well-informed on Pontefract's history, our people, buildings and past events. We were pleased with support from property owners, businesses, churches, and local groups like The Crescent Project, Pontefract Heritage Group, Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens, and Wakefield Council.

Other specific locations included St Giles Church, St Michael's Church, the Masonic Hall, Pontefract Castle, the Conservative Club, and Rogerthorpe Manor Hotel.

For 2018, Heritage Open Days will be scheduled over two weekends across the country, and for Pontefract our events will be scheduled for 13 – 16 September.



TRUSTEES

Our Trustees

Chairman	Paul Cartwright
Secretary	Karl Gilbert
Treasurer	Ian Wood
CEP Chair	Peter Taylor
LUT Chair	Peter Cookson
PEA Chair	Mike Skidmore
Co-opted	Dr Colin White
Co-opted	Dr Claire McDonald

Our Committees

Conservation, Environment & Planning Committee

Peter Taylor (Chair)
Karl Gilbert (Secretary)
Allan R Blaza
Christine Cartwright
Paul Cartwright
Philip Henfrey

Land Use & Transport Committee

Peter Cookson (Chair)
Anthony Dee (Vice Chair)
Derek Vaux (Secretary)
Sir Bill O'Brien

Rail Sub Group

Peter Cookson (Chair)
Philip Henfrey
David Hogg
Chris Hyomes
Paul Cartwright
Anthony Dee
Ian Wood
Rosemary Barnes

Publicity, Events & Administration Committee

Mike Skidmore (Chair)
Colin White (Vice Chair)
Karl Gilbert (Secretary)
Dr Claire MacDonald
Paul Cartwright
Mollie Garbett

Report of the Trustees for the Period Ending 31st December 2017

The Trustees, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31st December, 2017.

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.
3. 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 deficit of £511.

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

On behalf of the Board

Karl Gilbert

Honorary Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT



I am pleased to present the Treasurer's report for my first complete year in the position.

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 John Cookson for an effective independent examination of our 2017 Annual Accounts.

Our income in 2017 (£5,327) is made up principally of annual subscriptions amounting to £1,953 and combined sales of various books, calendars and pens amounting to £2,266.

The upward trend in new members again continues, particularly in business membership, where income has more than doubled compared with 2016.

During the latter part of the year, the Trustees successfully registered the Society on line with HMRC to enable us to claim gift aid more easily on eligible subscriptions retrospectively for the last four years and thereafter on all future eligible subscriptions, which will further enhance our income going forward.

Our net costs in 2017 after adjusting for the transfer of funds between accounts amounted to £5,838. Printing costs of books and calendars amounted to £1,407, and a further £200 share of the profits from the sales of Martin Lodge's book was paid to Pontefract Heritage Group, as previously agreed. The Society made some significant donations in the year to various local projects including Pontefract in Bloom, The Crescent Project, St Giles Pantomime Society and The Pontefract Music Festival, totalling £770. The unused portion of the Digital Heritage Grant awarded by The Council of British Archaeology in 2016 of £422 had to be repaid in 2017. Most of the other aspects of the Society's expenditure are broadly in line with earlier years, although there has been a degree of reclassification of some of these costs in this year's accounts.

In March 2017, as previously agreed by the Trustees, the investment account was closed and the balance of £1,609 was transferred to the current account, as the interest rate on the investment account was reduced from 0.05% to 0% on balances of below £1M.

Ian Wood
Treasurer

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2017
Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended 31 December 2017

Income		2017	2016	2015
	Annual subscriptions received	£ 1,953	£ 1,248	£ 1,127
	Blue plaques	£ -	£ 366	£ 348
	Grants	£ 100	£ 2,248	£ 5,995
	Donations	£ 318	£ 6,691	£ 162
	Events revenue	£ 690	£ 1,082	£ 920
	Book, calendar and pen sales	£ 2,266	£ 6,541	£ -
	Legacies	£ -	£ -	£ -
	Sub-Total	£ 5,327	£ 18,176	£ 8,552
Income from monetary assets				
	Transfers between accounts	£ 1,609	£ 17,000	£ 5,309
	Loan	£ -	£ 4,225	£ -
	Bank interest	£ -	£ 5	£ 12
	Total Income	£ 6,936	£ 39,406	£ 13,873
Expenditure		2017	2016	2015
Direct charitable expenditure:				
	Civic Voice	£ 228	£ 243	£ 80
	YHACS	£ 50	£ 50	£ 50
	Railfuture	£ 21	£ -	£ -
	Events & meetings	£ 925	£ 1,225	£ 1,449
	Donations	£ 770	£ 70	£ 120
	Sub-Total	£ 1,994	£ 1,588	£ 1,699
Other Expenditure incurred:				
	Membership refunds	£ 12	£ 12	£ -
	Insurance	£ 542	£ 539	£ 245
	Printing & Postage	£ 65	£ 349	£ 219
	Blue Plaques and Guides	£ -	£ -	£ 348
	Grants expenditure (non-Magna Carta)	£ -	£ 678	£ 596
	Magna Carta	£ -	£ 21,821	£ 7,304
	Transfers between accounts	£ 1,609	£ 17,000	£ 5,309
	Grants expenditure (Yorkshire Day)	£ -	£ 1,152	£ -
	Book Printing	£ 990	£ 4,878	£ -
	Calendar Printing	£ 417	£ -	£ -
	Loan Repayment	£ -	£ 4,225	£ -
	Grants Repayment	£ 422	£ -	£ -
	PHG Profit Share on Book Sales	£ 200	£ 700	£ -
	Trustee Development	£ -	£ 367	£ -
	PR Materials	£ 723	£ 248	£ -
	Website	£ -	£ 25	£ -
	Membership related costs	£ 473	£ -	£ -
	Sub-Total	£ 5,453	£ 51,994	£ 14,022
	Total expenditure incurred	£ 7,447	£ 53,582	£ 15,721
Overall Excess/Deficit of Income over Expenditure		-£ 511	-£ 14,176	-£ 1,848

Statement of Assets of Liabilities as at 31 December 2017

Monetary Assets	2017	2016	2015
Barclays Community A/c (current)	£ 8,635	£ 7,537	£ 4,719
Barclays Business Saver A/c (investment) - A/c closed Mar 2017	£ -	£ 1,609	£ 18,603
COIF A/c (investment) - A/c closed Dec 2015	£ -	£ -	£ -
Totals	£ 8,635	£ 9,146	£ 23,322
Reconciliation of cash movements to bank balances			
Opening bank balances	£ 9,146	£ 23,322	£ 25,170
Total cash receipts	£ 6,936	£ 39,406	£ 13,873
Less: Expenditure	£ 7,447	£ 53,583	£ 15,721
Total cash inflow	-£ 511	-£ 14,176	-£ 1,848
Closing bank balances	£ 8,635	£ 9,146	£ 23,322

2018 Calendar of Events

Tues 13 Feb		Annual General Meeting
Tues 13 Mar	Julian Ellis	"Restoring Pontefract's Heritage Buildings"
Tues 10 Apr	David Wilcox	"Kings, Lords and Hermits"
Weds 18 April	Visit to West Yorkshire Police (Carr Gate)	
Tues 8 May	Eric Jackson	A talk on Pontefract Sessions House
Tues 12 June	David Jones	A talk on Jesse Hartley
Sat 23 June	Civic Day	
Tues 10 July	Mike Leigh	A talk on THI & Conservation Schemes
Weds 25 July	Andy Wallhead	A talk on regeneration in Pontefract
Tues 11 Sept	Kevin Trickett	"Transports of Delight – the Orient Express and other stories about trains"
Thurs 13 - Sun 16 Sept	Heritage Open Days	
Tues 9 Oct	Phil Judkin	"Zeppelin: The air defence of Yorkshire in the First World War"
Tues 13 Nov	Eric Houlder	"The Discovery of Domesday Pontefract"
TBC		Members' Christmas Dinner

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 newsletter and the Annual Reports on our website 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 its 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.

JOIN US...

We believe in a
bright future
for Pontefract.

We need your
help to deliver
projects and
events.

If you have an
interest in any
of the following,
we'd love to
hear from you!

Events
Rail & Transport
Business & Tourism
Heritage
Planning



PONTEFRACT
CIVIC SOCIETY

info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 513509

www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

BOOKSHELF

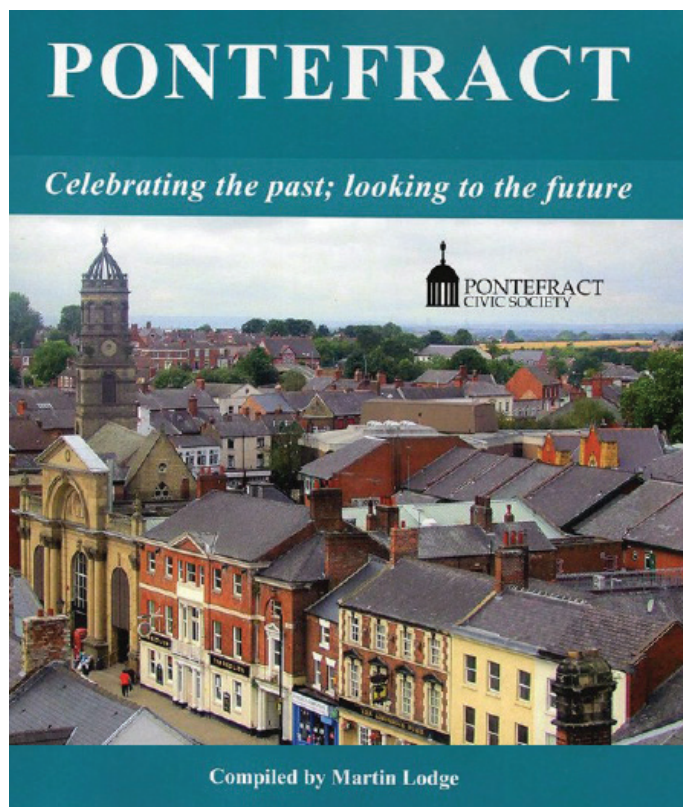
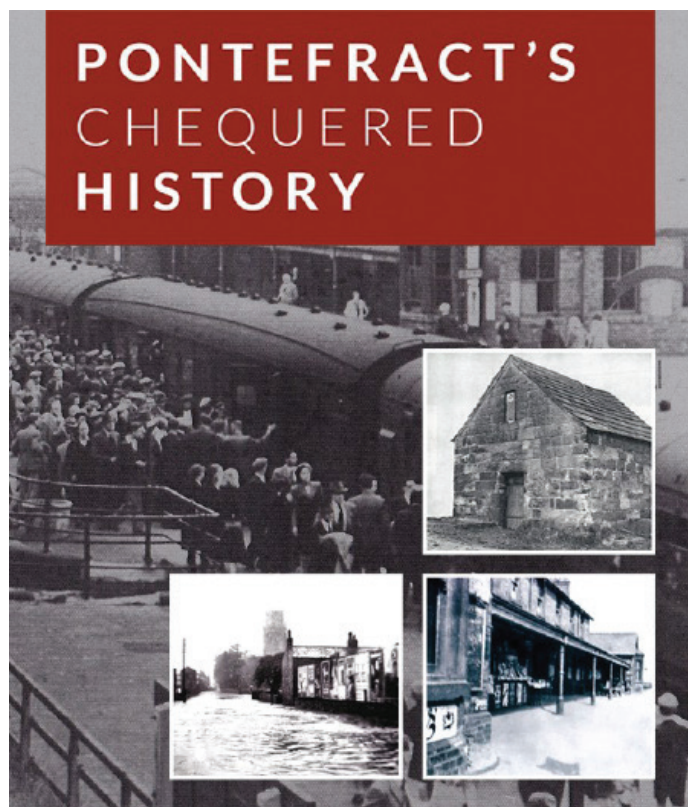
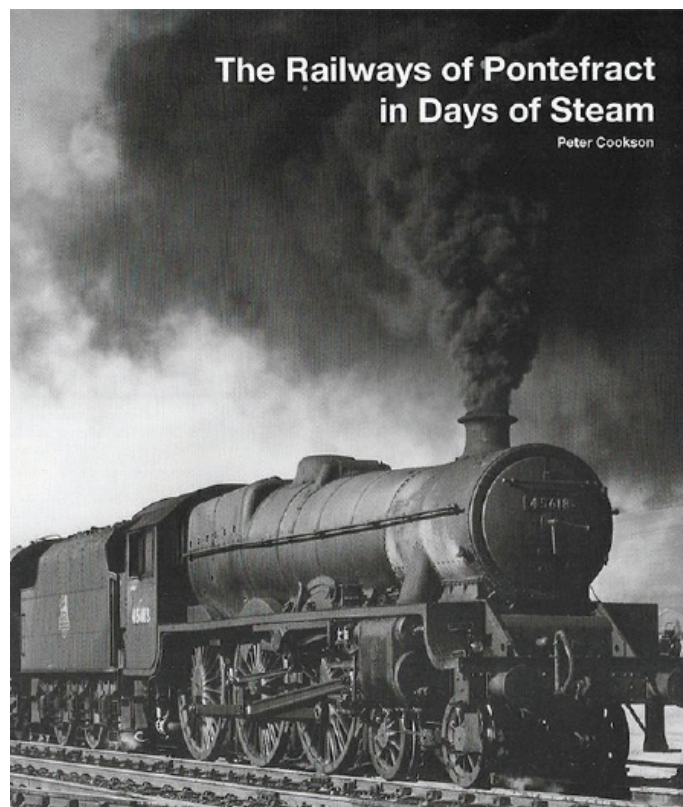
We have a number of local heritage and history publications for sale.

Our publications are now available for sale online, via email, phone and at selected shops in Pontefract. Visit www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/shop for more information or contact us via:

Phone: 01977 708658

Email: info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/shop



Silver Business Members:



Bronze Business Members:

Pomfret Gallery
St. Mary's Community Centre



"Raising the profile of Pontefract as a place to live, work, do business and visit by protecting and enhancing the environment."