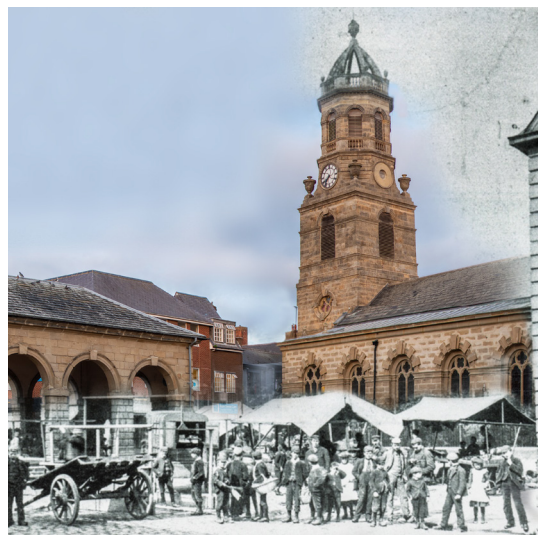


ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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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.

Rail Group Meeting Venue:

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Mick Todd & Steve Ridge and all the staff at Pontefract Squash & Leisure Centre

We would also like to thank Wakefield MDC for access to Pontefract Town Hall

Photographs courtesy of:

Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens
Pontefract Heritage Group
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Wakefield Council
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CHAIR'S REVIEW OF 2018



For some in Pontefract Civic Society, it has been a really busy year, and I am very thankful of those who have delivered within their role and supported me in going the extra mile.

Engaging Business

Following the 2017 Christmas Trail, which promoted independent businesses, we have continued to use social media and our talks to promote businesses, in particular though not exclusively, those who support us.

Our Executive is thankful to the support from Richard Metcalfe and his staff at Rogerthorpe Manor Hotel, in hosting our monthly meetings. Similarly, our Rail Group is thankful for the continued support from Steve Ridge and the team at Pontefract Squash & Leisure Centre, in providing a meeting room each month. We are thankful for the support of Linda, Chris & Richard Pennock in selling the late Martin Lodge's book and our 2019 heritage-based calendar at Pomfret Gallery, and in return we have given regular support by sharing social media posts. Towards the end of 2018, as we were aware that Wakefield MDC were producing a map of independent retailers in Pontefract, we made the decision not to confuse the business community or the public by creating a Christmas trail, though we did extensively photograph all those businesses which did decorate their shops and offices. In fact, such was the appetite for Christmas

decorations, both in windows and inside business premises, that we will bring back our judged competition in 2019.

We are thankful to Nathan Garbutt Moore in putting Pontefract Civic Society forward for a small grant from the Interserve Employee Foundation, from which a project will be delivered from March, 2019.

Civic Pride - Engaging with community based organisations

We held all our talks in 2018 at Carleton Grange, though for 2019 we took the decision to use the Town Hall as a more central and accessible location for all.

We do pay St Mary's Community Centre to print a small quantity of communications for our members without an email address, though by comparison with membership fees that cost per member is subsidized by the civic society. St Mary's is a business member, and in that respect have promoted their services, office space, and events.

We have actively supported a number of organisations in meetings and events, as well as paid advertising and donations, and those are St Mary's & St Giles Pantomime Society, Pontefract in Bloom, The Crescent Project and Pontefract Heritage Group.



WDH Barracks estate entrance feature

On Monday 12th November, the day after Remembrance Sunday, Christine and I together with Mike Skidmore attended the official launch of the commemorative entrance feature at the Barracks Estate. The Barracks Community Association, Wakefield District Housing and Pontefract Civic Society were involved in arranging and financing the feature through grants, including a handsome commemorative World War One steel bench.

The Barracks was the home to many soldiers during their initial training from the time before the Boer War right up until 1968. As a result of its heritage and impact on the town, Pontefract Civic Society will continue to work with the Barracks Community Association and Wakefield District Housing which may see the addition of a further bench, and an interpretation board, which we have discussed with Col. Gerald Delany.

Promoting Pontefract

Throughout 2018, book sales have continued, mostly online (thanks to Karl), on our PR stall at community events, though supported by Pontefract Library for Roger Ellis' book, and Pomfret Gallery continues to sell Martin Lodge's book. They also sold our 2019 Heritage Calendar. On the latter project, our thanks go to local photographer, Michael Hirst, who painstakingly photographed and matched new images to our selection of heritage images from Wakefield Libraries archives with their permission.

Entente Cordiale as civic society welcomes French visitors

On Sat 12 May, we gave an official welcome at Pontefract Town Hall to 60 visitors from France, accompanied by their 20 hosts from Selby. This was the culmination of months of planning between the group's coordinator, Lizzie Cooper, and our Chair, Paul Cartwright.

The Selby-Carentan Twinning Association was founded in 1974, promotes friendship between the residents of Selby and those in the French town of Carentan in Normandy. Each year visits alternate between the two towns.

The day commenced with a talk in the Nelson Room from Allan Blaza, followed by refreshments at St Giles Church, for which our French visitors offered praise to the scones baker. Two simultaneous heritage walks followed, one led by Jayne Poppleton, Heidi White (Pontefract Heritage Group), the other led by Paul Cartwright, which covered the town centre, Friarwood Valley Gardens and the St Richard's Friary site. After lunch, their choices included the new displays at Pontefract Museum, a dungeon tour at the Castle, or leisure time around the market, glimpsing blue plaques along the way; most of the group opted for the Museum, and we were very thankful to Wakefield Council for making that possible.

The English and French visitors alike enjoyed themselves very much and all took home very positive memories of Pontefract. Thanks were offered to Allan Blaza and to Pontefract Heritage

Group. The Selby Coordinator, Lizzie Cooper, thanked Paul Cartwright for arranging the programme. The English and French alike enjoyed themselves very much and all took home very positive memories of Pontefract.

York Civic Trust Visit to Pontefract

In August, a very inquisitive group of 20 members of York Civic Trust participated in a guided heritage walk of Pontefract's Market Place conservation area. We brushed past The Mount conservation area and Friarwood Valley Gardens - part of the Button Park & Friarwood conservation area (both the latter two, the civic society was responsible for gaining approval since the turn of the century), and finally our route concluded at Pontefract Town Hall. Before the walk commenced our visitors were treated to a "welcome" which was proclaimed by the then newly appointed Pontefract Town Crier, John Turner, of Pontefract Heritage Group.

The start of the tour was led by Paul Cartwright and was supported by Phil Henfrey, Dr Colin White, Allan Blaza and Karl Gilbert.

In the two hours available, it was a challenge to show some of Pontefract's conserved medieval, Georgian, Victorian and later architecture together with the significance of earlier periods such as the Romans, Anglo Saxons, the arrival the de Lacy family and later royal connections. More recent commentary of our rich and varied history included the town's trades, street names and markets, going onto its varied industries of liquorice, the army, maltsters, mining, whilst also including mention of the arrival of the racecourse, and the unique geography which delivered three rail stations to the town, though we are still waiting for better rail services over a hundred years later!

At the end of their visit Stephen Lusty (Events Chair from YCT) said that the pride in Pontefract and in the civic society shone through, and our proactive attitude has enabled so much to be done in the town. YCT Visit Coordinator Agnes Winter felt that their eyes were opened at what Pontefract had to offer and what Pontefract Civic Society has achieved.

Sale of the Century at Pontefract

Since May, Pontefract Museum has been taking a shopping trip down memory lane, from the elegant window dressings of the 1930s to wartime rationing; from the explosion of consumer culture to times of austerity.

'Sale of the Century' is a photographic exhibition exploring one hundred years of shopping in Pontefract, featuring nostalgic images from the museum collections contrasted with

contemporary photography.

Fashionable new coffee shops, vibrant gaming stores and chic boutiques have appeared in recent years on Pontefract's streets, against a backdrop of online shopping giants. Pontefract's people and its shops are changing but some things remain universally familiar.

The temporary exhibition compliments the redisplay of Pontefract Museum's main gallery.

Pontefract Civic Society was asked to reach out to civic society members and the public for stories and reminiscences, which resulted in a great piece of collaboration between Pontefract Museum, ourselves and the public.

Pomfret WI

In March, we gave a talk on Pontefract's blue plaques to the WI which was well received.

Partnerships and statutory authorities

Our senior meetings with Wakefield MDC have taken place at intervals during 2018, starting with Andy Wallhead (now at WDH), Neil Rodgers in June, and from September with Tom Stannard, together with Cllrs Jeffery and Jones.

We were concerned with the proposed governance structure resulting in a quarterly meeting for the Pontefract Working Group, this we initially objected to. We felt that given our support to the initial consultation, the level of public interest, and the volume of work ahead of us, a quarterly meeting was totally inappropriate for us to represent the interests of Pontefract. This was reviewed and revised to a monthly meeting which has been productive and more engaging towards the end of the year. Meetings with Highways and on Rail have been reported elsewhere.

Our use of Pontefract Town Hall for meetings and heritage walks has become more frequent, and we thank both the Events & Function Team and Halls Officer at Wakefield Council for their cooperation and flexibility.

Our activities in delivering against the Wakefield Council capital grant 2018 has been delayed, and we plan to bring this to a conclusion in 2019.

For the Tour de Yorkshire, we hosted an initial public meeting, followed by an official roadshow in April, and Phil Cook worked with local groups to manage an activity stall for young people on

the market and bike pictures on the Southgate side of the former Keyzers

In spite of Wakefield Council Cabinet approving Public Spaces Protection Orders in Castleford and Pontefract (the latter does cover Friarwood Valley Gardens) – there has been a rise in anti-social behaviour, and in 2019 we would look to both Wakefield MDC and West Yorkshire Police to put greater effort into the management of these issues from a minority in our community. Other examples of partnership working have been our support for Volunteers Week Fair in Pontefract Library, attended in June by Dave Hogg (6 Jun), our support for the Pontefract in Bloom team and the judging visit in July, and ongoing work with The Crescent Project through meetings and Featherstone Male Voice Choir Concert in September. Our close partnership with Pontefract Heritage Group on book sales, heritage walks, Heritage Open Days, and via the Town Crier has continued throughout the year, and will be strengthened even further in 2019.

We have participated in a number of partner meetings for the Wakefield Cultural Consortium, the results of which will come to fruition in 2019 and beyond.

We are also so fortunate to have commenced work with Dream Time Creative, Pontefract Museum, and Pontefract Family History Society as part of the Forgotten Women of Wakefield, which will deliver a blue plaque for Elizabeth Moxon in 2019.

Throughout 2018, we had the modest benefit from the University of York's Cultural Heritage Management student placement programme.

Networking with Civic Voice, YHACS and other civic societies

Civic Voice Region Forum

The Feb 2018 meeting focused on conservation area audit documentation, member fees and what an affinity scheme could look like.

The May 2018 meeting revisited the ongoing theme of the Big Conservation Conversation, the challenges facing civic societies, such as technology, dwindling membership and the need to engage with younger members, and finally the National Planning Policy Framework.

Other topics are presented and debated at these meetings by representatives from regional associations, where they exist, and



some civic societies where there isn't a regional structure. If you require further information on these discussions, please contact our Chair.

In Sept, the focus was the NPPF, the need for training for civic societies, and the Convention.

Civic Voice Convention (The Big Conservation Conversation)

The convention theme has continued from last year's event, such is the significance of the issue on conservation in our towns and cities, though the format of the event changed to one which had a theatre setting on day one with an impressive line-up of keynote speakers, and a limited mix of workshops and tours on day two, though our chair, Paul Cartwright and his wife Christine were not convinced that this format was an improvement on previous conventions. Nonetheless, keynote speakers did create an increased and attentive audience:

Day 1

Keynote speakers from National Trust, Historic England, Donald Insall Associates (architects), Royal Town Planning Institute, Max Farrell, Institute of Historic Building Conservation, and Royal Institute of British Architects each gave their perspectives on the present and the future of planning, beauty and conservation, regeneration, design and town planning.

Day 2



Sarah McLeod, CEO Wentworth Woodhouse, delivered a warts and all pictorial presentation on their journey thus far. We heard different approaches to the same subject that is the future of conservation areas in Blackpool and Ilkley. Swindon Civic Voice was also rewarded, being named as the best conservation area following a public vote.

Engaging with young people (tomorrows' adults), is an important area of development for Pontefract Civic Society, therefore we made sure we heard from the horse's mouth, Birmingham Civic Society's Next Generation Awards. There are some aspects which on a smaller scale our Citizenship Group may consider for the future.

Plenary

Alongside the autumn '2018 Budget', the government published the planning consultation; Supporting the high street and increasing the delivery of new homes which ran from 29th October 2018 to 14th January 2019 and sought views on a package of measures aimed at making the best use of land and speeding up the delivery of new homes.

Joan Humble, Chair of Civic Voice, said: "The future of high streets requires collaborative planning and long term vision with the historic environment at its heart. Investing in the high street requires long-term planning and whilst the government believes the plans would help revive high streets and increase housing delivery, we think it will do the opposite and we may end up with poor quality design housing without consideration for the wider built environment, something we know is key to successful high streets."

War Memorials project

We are also thankful to Gill Lodge for engaging with the Civic Voice War Memorials project by attending a workshop in February.

YHACS

In January, the YHACS AGM returned to its usual haunt of Harrogate, where as well as the AGM business we had a very thorough presentation of the work of the Canal & River Trust.

The spring meeting in Leeds was held at Leeds Town Hall, where we heard from two fascinating speakers on community housing projects, as well as the Chair of the 20th Century Society.

The summer meeting took us to Ripon where we were treated to a well-coordinated programme starting on Friday evening with a visit to the Ripon Workhouse Museum, followed by a guided walk to heritage sites around the city, followed by the meeting in the town hall in the afternoon where we heard from Henri Murison, Director of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership. During the Saturday morning walk and the afternoon's meeting, we were treated to live demonstrations of an innovative digital project to bring blue plaques to life (for smartphone or tablet users) offering more information than can be displayed on a plaque, as well as audio recordings.

Civic Patron appointed

After a long history, Pontefract Civic Society appointed its very first patron, Michael Sayles Fox DL, at the Annual General Meeting in February at Carleton Grange, where a framed certificate was presented in front of an appreciative audience of members.

Michael's family hailed from Pontefract, and a distant ancestor fought for the King when garrisoned at Pontefract Castle during the English Civil War. Another became a Liberal Party Alderman serving on Pontefract Borough Council, whilst others grew liquorice in the Valley Gardens, and his Grandfather was born in the house next to the gardens.

Announcement of new group structure

In Oct, we announced a new internal structure, which we have been working towards since 2017, which was driven following our use of the Civic Voice Healthcheck tool, which confirmed what we needed to do, and where we needed to work much harder in engaging with our own members and the public, so that many more people understand what Pontefract Civic Society does. The changes are set out below, and have already engaged better with some members, though there is much work to be done. We are still welcoming members to get on board by joining one of these group if you share our brighter vision for Pontefract, first and foremost, and second to that a brighter vision for the civic society.

2019 – 50th Anniversary

The year ahead will be even more full than 2018, especially when we add a considerable number of 50th Anniversary specific events and activities, and would urge all members and friends to respond by getting involved in as many things as your diary allows. Even if you can't attend something, do tell your family and friends.

Full details of our 50th Anniversary is referred to elsewhere in this report, and you will be regularly updated, so please don't miss out as we celebrate together.

Paul Cartwright
Chairman



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)
-	Internal Stakeholders Forum
Futures Group	Futures Group
Executive Committee	Executive Committee

PATRON'S ADDRESS

I recently attended and enjoyed very much the society's 2017 & 2018 Design Awards held in the historic Pontefract Town Hall. It is events such as this that demonstrate the society has a significant role in ensuring that investment comes into the town and that its high streets are attractive and vibrant. Also pleasing was the move to provide living accommodation above commercial premises – just as it once was in the old days!

The range and type of awards; from new build, refurbishment, restoring heritage frontages, etc., demonstrated a real sense of community involvement from those who received awards or were highly commended. I must confess to being in awe of Pontefract

in Bloom managing to plant over 5000 plants twice a year.

Finally, it is also good to see the society working closely with Wakefield Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund through its transforming Townscape Heritage Initiative. It is through developing partnerships like this that Pontefract Civic Society becomes a leader in its own field. I am proud to be a part of this dynamic organisation.

Michael Sayles Fox DL
Patron

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is my great pleasure to present the Secretary's Report for 2018. The year marked my fourth in the role of secretary and has been another busy one, with a great deal having been achieved within the society.

Membership subscriptions throughout 2018 have remained positive overall. We have welcomed 9 new individual members and 24 joint members to the society. Business memberships have also been positive, having welcomed 2 new businesses and our first Gold business member. As ever, we will continue to work and consult with businesses throughout 2019 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.

The decision to lower our membership fees to £5 for individual memberships and £8 for joint memberships (non-email membership fees remain unchanged) was made and was brought into effect for new memberships from September 2018 onwards. This has already seen a positive effect on the number of new members joining us and hope this trend will continue throughout 2019.

We have continued to strive towards increasing our public image and, to this end, I have designed a number of marketing materials

throughout the year to promote our events and activities. We started selling a number of publications through our website and sales have been overwhelmingly positive, including sales of our 2019 Calendar, with the first print run having sold out in a matter of weeks and another print run placed in January to meet demand.

We continued to support and have a presence at local community events throughout the year, holding stalls at Pontefract Liquorice Festival, Armed Forces Day, Yorkshire Day and Civic Day amongst others. The purchase of branded stall dressing items, including balloons, bunting, teardrop banners and branded t-shirts served to raise our profile whilst engaging with the community which we serve.

Plans are already in motion for our 50th Anniversary celebrations and 2019 promises to be another busy and exciting year for the society. 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



Planning Group Report

At the beginning of the year the Conservation Environment & Planning Committee changed its name to reflect its principal focus on Planning Applications submitted to Wakefield Council, thus our other responsibilities, like blue plaques, were moved to the Heritage Group. Our regular monthly meetings have discussed and evaluated development proposals, especially those affecting the town centre, and the former Prince of Wales colliery site. Comments of support or concern were made to the local authority and appear as public records on planning applications and hopefully assist in the decision process. This led to applications being revised or ignored, refused or withdrawn.

Major development proposals that have been examined in the year include the Leisure Hub development on Pontefract Park, the warehouse/employment development off Park Road, and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) projects in the town centre. Additionally, residential housing development phases 4, 5 and 6 on the Pontefract colliery site, land off Cobblers Lane, and Ferrybridge Road have been closely followed. Unfortunately some revisions have been overlooked, thus when development takes place, an unattractive scheme results; however, the properties regenerated through the THI scheme have been attractive, visually, yet the Park Road buildings currently under construction are less so.

The civic society has been consulted on a scheme to be brought forward to enhance Colonel's Walk as part of a wider review of the Tanshelf area which in 2019 will inform the Local Plan 2036, and will continue to monitor the development land associated with the Prince of Wales colliery and spoil tip/slurry site.

The cleaning and removal of the paintwork from the front of the Red Lion Hotel and several new shop fronts in a traditional form have all produced welcomed improvements to Cornmarket, Beastfair, Market Place, Ropergate, Gillygate, and Finkle Street. The civic society has throughout the seven years of the THI scheme been involved on the THI Grants Board, which monitored the architects' plans and applications for funding. We have been part of the proposals for three interpretation boards, which show the historical context of the development within the Market Place Conservation Area (for those who don't know, this area covers most of the town centre, excluding Horsefair and surrounding locations which is part of the castle conservation area). The THI scheme in addition has attracted private investment leading towards property refurbishment and general improvements creating a more welcoming town centre, beyond which it has been a catalyst for building improvements by some landlords outside of the scheme.

The planning group continue to look at sites which would attract blue plaque opportunities but this requires private funding and owners' consent, though this role is within our Heritage Group. The prospect of creating additional conservation areas has been considered but concluded that there was little scope to create appropriate areas. Ideas taken on by other communities are frequently looked at which might be implemented in the town's streets and buildings.

The group is pleased to see the refurbished Magistrates Court, now Magistrates Market open as an antiques centre. The Tour de Yorkshire will again run through Pontefract, and activities within the Friarwood Gardens and the Castle continue to make these

areas more popular.

We have to ask the question regarding the major retail development scheme (Axiom) proposed on the land north of the M62. Will this come about, when and how will it impact on our high street and market? The timing of development reflects a wider economic state not governed by the civic society, however the group continues to monitor the situation; our comments can have an effect.

Peter Taylor
Planning Group Coordinator

Highways Group

During 2018, our focus has continued specifically on Highways, as the Rail Group has become more well established, which was previously part of our remit. During 2018, we have had a number of meetings with Wakefield Council officers in the Highways department, though progress is incredibly slow, at times.

It is good to be able to report some movement on the difficult junction on Knottingley Road near All Saints' Church. The scheme for a gyratory flow in a clockwise direction around the Church should now be away for appraisal by the traffic modellers to see whether the cost/benefit analysis favours proceeding to the detailed design and consultation phase.

We are still expecting work to start on the lower end of Broad Lane to improve pedestrian safety by widening the central island at that point together with the addition of a pedestrian crossing on Southgate. For visitors to the town, this will also provide for a

safe route to the castle from Friarwood Lane car park and Baghill Station; this will happen as funding has been agreed.

Alas, we have nothing further to report on the A639 Park Road and its increasing traffic level, though the Leisure Hub planning application was approved in Jan, 2019, whilst at the other end of the A639 the Country Park scheme will only be further progressed once coal extraction is completed.

We remain frustrated by the lack of information on the South Featherstone Link Road, this is the initial section of the South East Link Road scheme. I am frequently asked what progress has been made by Ackworth residents and Councillors, Pontefract business people and residents as well as Featherstone residents and business owners. Comments have been made that there may be some forces at work trying to see that this essential scheme is put to one side yet again. We hope to have some positive answers in early 2019.

Derek Vaux
Highways Group Coordinator

Rail Group Report

2018 was a very eventful year for the group.

In April, Pontefract Library was the venue for an exhibition of Peter Cookson's photographs of our 3 Stations in bygone and modern times. These were accompanied by explanatory text and went down very well with members of the public; we hope they will also get behind our ongoing campaign.

May saw the introduction of the extra hourly service to Leeds





via Wakefield, however, this got off to a dreadful start with the debacle of all of Northern Rail's extra services suffering mass cancellations. They had over committed themselves and did not have the resources to carry out all of the new services. This had a further impact on the Baghill services. The second train back from York was re-timed to allow for an extra tea time service, which is still not in place. This has resulted in a service less usable than before. Northern Rail has promised to introduce the extra service in this May's timetable change, though we are equally aware that the problems of the new timetable and lack of units to enhance services was mainly down to Network Rail failing to meet their targets so that promised units were not available to Northern, thus dropping them in it. Northern cannot be entirely exonerated, though the blame should be more widely spread.

2018 also saw us strengthen our partnership with the Friends of Askern Station, with a joint meeting with their MP, Ed Milliband MP; they are campaigning to rebuild and re-open their station, which fits in with our campaign to extend the Huddersfield to Castleford service to Doncaster via Monkhill (though we recently hear the rail authorities have not supported the request). The Chair and representatives from the Friends group had attended our first meeting in Pontefract Town Hall, a couple of years ago, where we launched our own rail group.

An October meeting of the Pontefract Rail Users Group gave us optimism for a decent service on the Baghill line when a representative from Transport for the North hinted that this was an achievable goal, with the correct funding in place. Judging by the comments we receive from the public this service would be well used, if it was a full service. Also in October a meeting was held with Yvette Cooper MP, with regards to our main objectives (Baghill services, Huddersfield train through to Doncaster and car parking at Monkhill Station). Yvette offered her full support for all of our issues and suggested further meetings.

November brought the announcement of a platform extension at Monkhill, so the soon to be introduced longer sets will have platform space for all cars. The group also had the great news of a £500 budget allocated to us by RailFuture Y&H to use in our campaigns. We are currently considering ideas to use the budget. A recent concern was the state of the roof at Baghill Station. A complaint was sent to Network Rail concerning the apparent lack of maintenance of the building. Network Rail has recently erected safety scaffolding and has informed us they are having the building assessed. They have promised to keep us informed of their findings and remedial work.

2019 will bring new trains from Northern Rail, though these are scheduled for other services. All of the stock for our services will be re-furbished. This should stop the use of short formed sets on our services.

Also as mentioned previously, the third service on the Baghill line should be introduced in May, which will at least make the service usable for leisure travel, giving around seven hours in York, and also making a visit to Meadowhall or Sheffield feasible. Hopefully this will eventually lead to a full service, which can be used for commuting.

We all hope Northern Rail with the support of Network Rail can get their act together and provide us with a reliable and comfortable service in 2019.

Dave Hogg
Rail Group Coordinator



Talks & Tours Group Report

The PEA committee changed its name about two thirds of the way through the year to the Talks & Tours Group. This title is much more relevant to the activities of the group and its purpose. Our responsibility lies in organising and delivering as it says, talks and tours throughout the year for members.

In 2018, we held eight talks, although originally we had hoped for nine. Unfortunately, the speaker on one of the talks could not make it due to important work commitments.

I can state that all our talks were successful. We had a range of subjects, from local history to local buildings and conservation, famous local names from history (Peter the Hermit), Jesse Hartley, and an interesting talk about trains including the Orient Express. Near the end of the year, we had a talk about Zeppelins also mentioning the Royal Flying Corps, with their vicarious association to Pontefract Park. Our final talk, much looked forward to, was entitled Disappearing Pontefract, featuring old buildings that are no more.

All our talks are illustrated with copious slides, photographs, diagrams, and sometimes plans. Every one is different, but every one is fascinating, interesting and informative.

The talks admission fee for members remains at just £2, and for non-members it's £4, which is hardly daylight robbery, though it does pay to join the civic society as a member. Nothing delights us more than seeing a full room at a talk.

For 2019, we have organised nine talks, and tours to Shanks (waste recycling), TJX Europe site (TK Maxx & Home Sense), and other towns Howden and Halifax.

The subjects of our talks are rich and varied from history, to aerial

archaeology, word meanings, religious connections, the civic movement and Pontefract's regeneration.

We would be pleased to welcome you to these talks and we guarantee you won't be disappointed. Please tell your friends and encourage them to come too.

Our group and its work is only a small part of what Pontefract Civic Society does for Pontefract.

During the first part of the year, under the PEA Committee, we had a stall at various events in town, Armed Forces Day, Liquorice Festival and so on. This role has now moved to the Citizenship Group.

Any help you can give to the Talks & Tours Group, or the civic society as a whole would be greatly appreciated.

Mike Skidmore

Talks & Tours Group Coordinator

Heritage Group Report

The group was formed in mid-2018 as a consequence of the Society's strategic review of committee structures. It was felt that there was a need to focus on, bringing to the fore, the rich history and heritage of the town and this is the remit of the group.

As a civic society, we also have a history. What and where we are today is built upon the strong foundations set down by members since its formation in 1969 and during 2019 we will celebrate our 50th anniversary. In this regard, the group's immediate priority, which is on-going, is to prepare materials for the celebrations. The end result of research being undertaken will be the production of a booklet about the Society's history, for both members and non-members. Trawling through newspaper articles, delving into filing cabinets and jogging memories has been the order of the day, in our quest to produce a timeline of

PCS events over the past 50 years. If you have a story to tell, where the civic society has worked to deliver improvements in Pontefract, then please get in touch.

We have also been working closely with the Forgotten Women of Wakefield project. The aim of the project is to research, share and bring to life women from Wakefield's (and surrounds) past who have had a positive impact on the lives of people today. In this respect, we have been assisting Dream Time Creative (the arts company behind the project) in finding more detail about the life of Elizabeth Moxon and in particular, where in Pontefract she lived. In 1741, Elizabeth had an influential cookery book published, titled 'English Housewifry', it being sold from her house in our town. The culmination of the research, as well as a series of workshops being held in the Museum, will be in March when a blue plaque will be unveiled in Pontefract, honouring the work of Elizabeth.

Both the 50 years anniversary timeline and the Elizabeth Moxon research are on-going, but these are not the only research areas that the group has in its sights. Other projects for 2019 include the updating of the town's Blue Plaque guide; new heritage trails around the town; the production of a heritage database website for use by the public; and the compilation of a publication regarding historic buildings of Pontefract.

For the Heritage Group, the future is looking into the past, which can then be brought to life through information, literature, and themed heritage walks.

Philip Henfrey
Heritage Group Coordinator



Citizenship Group Report

While the group was only formed in Oct 2018, the group members have worked well throughout the year within the former PEA Committee, focusing on the PR stall at external events. Our visible presence has been useful in both promoting the civic society, but also by putting something back into the community via our support to various events and organisations, namely, Wakefield Armed Forces Day, Pontefract Liquorice Festival, Yorkshire Day (where the civic society had a key role on the organising committee). We supported Heritage Open Days setting up marketing materials at various venues, the Crescent concert from Featherstone Male Voice Choir, and the community event to celebrate 100 years of power generation in Ferrybridge.

Now the group has been officially formed as a standalone team, the lessons learnt from previous PR events are being put into place and actions assigned ready for 2019, as we seek to make our public face at events more interactive and appealing to all ages. One major development is the introduction of a photoshoot opportunity at events for young people, to allow ice breaker engagement with parents. We are also looking at our marketing materials and updating as identified.

For our Junior Civic Society, we will be exploring who to engage with in uniformed youth organisations as well as pursuing relationships with schools, promoting the civic pride, civic society membership, and enabling us to support our young citizens to care for the town that we love.

The citizenship group has taken the lead role for our Golden Jubilee celebrations, working with other groups in the civic society to plan a series of celebration event, publicity and legacy materials based on the past 50 years, and where we sell ourselves in the future; details will be communicated when finalised. Whilst the citizenship group has the lead, we will openly welcome support from other members, and so far we have engaged with Phil Henfrey and Colin White.

We have a big agenda in our remit and offers of support in 2019 will be welcomed, whether it is organising events, setting up stalls, 'selling' the civic society, or designing materials. We will need your support.

Phil Cook
Citizenship Group Coordinator

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS REPORT



In September, buildings and places in and around Pontefract threw open their doors to welcome visitors from far and wide as part of a free international celebration of Heritage. On Fri 1 Sept, we launched this year's guide to Heritage Open Days 4-day festival with host partners, civic society members and the Town Crier, courtesy of Pontefract Heritage Group.

Buildings and places in and around Pontefract threw open their doors to welcome something in the region of 1,000 visitors from far and wide, which meant that 13 locations offered a total of 29 opportunities to explore the heritage of Pontefract, Carleton, East Hardwick and Ackworth, and one week earlier Nostell Priory was also participating in the National Trust and People's Postcode Lottery backed scheme.

Paul Cartwright, Civic Society Chair, said "It was really great to see and hear the enthusiasm for our rich heritage with hundreds of visitors from Cambridge, Manchester, Tewkesbury, Doncaster, Sheffield, and many places around West Yorkshire." Ackworth School, the Masonic Hall, Minden House, and the churches in Pontefract, Carleton and East Hardwick all willingly participated in talks, rang the church bells, and offered guided walks which were well supported in the town centre via Pontefract Heritage Group with their Town Crier, in the Town Hall, at Pontefract Castle. Renowned local speaker, Tom Dixon, also drew a good number of visitors to the liquorice fields of Pontefract. All Saints Church had over 150 visitors, and around 80 made the double helix climb to the bell ringing chamber. Visitor numbers to Pontefract Castle and Pontefract Museum were also high. Bell ringers at St Giles and All Saints' demonstrated their craft, explained to eager visitors how to ring safely, and allowed

some to 'have a go'! Other sites included Friarwood Valley Gardens, Pontefract as a garrison town (at the Barracks), and a photographic exhibition in Pontefract Library prompted interest. For Pontefract Town Hall, Minden House and Ackworth School many similar comments were received saying the tours and talks were "fascinating", "very interesting" and "the guide was excellent".

Some specific comments on various locations are given below: Pinhole Camera, Friarwood Valley Gardens – "visited Pontefract for 30 years and didn't know the gardens existed", and another said "what a delight to see inside this building with such a knowledgeable guide".

Pontefract Town Hall – a visitor from Sheffield said "always good to see places not normally open – thanks". A couple from Cambridge said it was "Great!"

Ackworth School – visitors said, "enjoyed a brief look into the history of the Quakers and their teaching, also to see inside the beautiful school". Another said "great that I could take photographs back to Australia – a good tour guide", and finally, "Celia gave us a taste of the school, past pupils and history back to the 'Foundling days'. It was great – Thank you".

HOD 2019 nationally is 13-22 Sept and we will shortly decide which days we will plan for, locally.

Claire MacDonald
Heritage Open Days Coordinator

DESIGN AWARDS



2017 Regeneration Award - Knights of Pontefract, 3 Horsefair



2017 Façade of the Year - Pickerings of Pontefract



2017 Special Commendation - WDH Baileygate Court



2018 Heritage Award - Ropergate House, 43 Ropergate



2017 Residential Award - Mercer Almshouses, Halfpenny Lane



2018 Improvement Award - Hope & Anchor



2017 Improvement Award - Gillygate Apartments



2018 Special Commendation - Pontefract in Bloom



2017 Heritage Award - Pontefract Castle, Visitor Centre



2018 Special Commendation - Townscape Heritage Initiative



TRUSTEES

Our Trustees

Chairman	Paul Cartwright
Secretary	Karl Gilbert
Treasurer	Ian Wood
Planning Group Coordinator	Peter Taylor
Highways Group Coordinator	Peter Cookson
Talks & Tours Group Coordinator	Mike Skidmore
Rail Group Coordinator	Dave Hogg
Co-opted	Dr Colin White
Co-opted (to 18 Jul)	Dr Claire McDonald

Our Working Groups

Planning Group

Peter Taylor (Coordinator)
Philip Henfrey (Deputy)
Karl Gilbert (Secretary)
Allan R Blaza
Christine Cartwright
Paul Cartwright
Arnie Craven

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
Steve Brooks
Karl Gilbert

Citizenship Group

Phil Cook (Coordinator)
Gill Lodge
Sue Gilbert
Paul Cartwright
Christine Cartwright
Claire MacDonald
Karl Gilbert

Talks & Tours Group

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

Report of the Trustees for the Period Ending 31st December 2018

The Trustees, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31st December, 2018.

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 surplus of £15,411, as a result of a grant which we continue to work on.

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 2018.

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 2018 Annual Accounts.

Our income in 2018 (£20,839) has been greatly enhanced as a result of a number of grants received, the most significant of these being £15,000 from Wakefield Metropolitan District Council to be used for the provision of various interpretation boards and banners. All other sources of income made up principally of annual subscriptions (£2,180) and combined sales of various books, calendars and pens (1,530) are broadly in line with the previous year.

The Trustees are currently in the process of formulating a claim to HMRC for gift aid on retrospective eligible subscriptions and had expected that this exercise would have been successfully concluded during the year with all relevant monies received. Unfortunately however the exercise is taking considerably longer than was anticipated, although the Trustees are confident that it will be concluded in the near future.

In an effort to increase the levels of both "individual" and "joint" memberships the Trustees made a significant decision to reduce future annual subscription rates with effect from 2019 from £15 to £5 and from £20 to £8 respectively.

Our costs in 2018 amounted to £4,998, marginally lower than in the previous year. Significant items of expenditure included the cost of events and meeting rooms (£893) and equipment and PR materials (£955). Printing costs of books and calendars amounted to £754, and a further £100 share of the profits from the sales of Martin Lodge's book was paid to Pontefract Heritage Group, as previously agreed. Once again the Society has made some significant donations during the year to various local projects including The Barracks Community Association for the provision of a World War One Commemorative Bench, Pontefract in Bloom, The Crescent Project and St Giles Pantomime Society, totalling £763. Most of the other aspects of the Society's expenditure are broadly in line with earlier years.

Ian Wood
Treasurer

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.

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2018

Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31 December 2018

Income	2018	2017
Annual subscriptions received	£ 2,180	£ 1,953
Blue plaques	£ -	£ -
Grants	£ 15,802	£ 100
Donations	£ 229	£ 318
Events revenue	£ 1,098	£ 690
Book, calendar and pen sales	£ 1,530	£ 2,266
Legacies	£ -	£ -
Sub-Total	£ 20,839	£ 5,327
Income from monetary assets		
Transfers between accounts	£ -	£ 1,609
Loan	£ -	£ -
Bank interest	£ -	£ -
Total Income	£ 20,839	£ 6,936

Expenditure	2018	2017
Direct charitable expenditure:		
Civic Voice	£ 482	£ 228
YHACS	£ 50	£ 50
Railfuture	£ 21	£ 21
Events & meetings	£ 893	£ 925
Donations	£ 763	£ 770
Sub-Total	£ 2,209	£ 1,994
Other Expenditure incurred:		
Membership refunds	£ -	£ 12
Insurance	£ 552	£ 542
Printing & Postage	£ 24	£ 65
Student's Expenses	£ 40	£ -
Grants expenditure (non-Magna Carta)	£ -	£ -
Magna Carta	£ -	£ -
Transfers between accounts	£ -	£ 1,609
Grants expenditure (Yorkshire Day)	£ -	£ -
Book Printing	£ 490	£ 990
Calendar Printing	£ 264	£ 417
Loan Repayment	£ -	£ -
Grants Repayment	£ -	£ 422
PHG Profit Share on Book Sales	£ 100	£ 200
Trustee Development	£ -	£ -
PR Materials	£ 954	£ 723
Website	£ 30	£ -
Membership related costs	£ 335	£ 473
Sub-Total	£ 2,789	£ 5,453
Total expenditure incurred	£ 4,998	£ 7,447
Overall Excess/Deficit of Income over Expenditure	£ 15,841	-£ 511

Statement of Assets of Liabilities as at 31 December 2018

Monetary Assets	2018	2017
Barclays Community A/c (current)	£ 24,476	£ 8,635
Barclays Business Saver A/c (investment) - A/c closed Mar 2017	£ -	£ -
Totals	£ 24,476	£ 8,635

Reconciliation of cash movements to bank balances

Opening bank balances	£ 8,635	£ 9,146
Total cash receipts	£ 20,839	£ 6,936
Less: Expenditure	£ 4,998	£ 7,447
Total cash inflow	£ 15,841	-£ 511
Closing bank balances	£ 24,476	£ 8,635

Treasurer: I Wood (2018)

I have examined the Receipts and Payments for the Year 2018 and found it to be in accordance with the records and vouchers produced.

Christopher Hyomes
Independent Examiner

03-Feb-19

P Cartwright
Chairman PCS

03-Feb-19

2019 Calendar of Events

For 2019, our monthly talks will be in the Nelson Room of Pontefract Town Hall.

Tues 8 January	David Willcox	Talk: "The Origins of Pontefract/Hidden Pontefract"
Weds 23 January	Design Awards 2017 & 2018	
Tues 12 February	Annual General Meeting	
Tues 12 March	Anthony Poulton-Smith	Talk: "What's in a Name?"
Fri 15 March	Elizabeth Moxon Blue Plaque unveiling	
Tues 19 March	Tour of TJX Europe, Wakefield Processing Centre, Knottingley	
Tues 9 April	Eric Jackson	Talk: "The Kingdom of Alms"
Sat 13 April	Pontefract Community Showcase	
Fri 3 May	Tour de Yorkshire (with the collaboration of the local community)	
Tues 14 May	Allan Blaza	Talk: "50 Years of Civic Pride in Pontefract"
24 May	DYJO Big Band Swing Concert	
Weds 29 May	Visit to Renewi, South Kirkby Household Waste Recycling Centre	
Tues 4 June	Guided day visit to Halifax (Piece Hall, Borough Market and Town Hall) hosted by Halifax Civic Trust	
Tues 11 June	Mollie Garbett	Talk: "The History of Methodism in Pontefract – From John Wesley to the present day"
Tues 9 July	Merran McCrae	Talk: TBC
Thurs 18 July	Guided half day visit to Howden hosted by Howden Civic Society	
Tues 10 September	Antonino Vella	Talk: "Interpreting Pontefract at the Museum and Castle"
13-15 & 19-22 September	Heritage Open Days	
Tues 8 October	Eric Houlder	Talk: "Infrared Colour Aerial Photography in War, Local History, and Archaeology"
Sat 26 October	Hosting YHACS Regional Meeting	
Tues 12 November	Roger Ellis	"The Fletcher Rhodes Collaboration - Text by J S Fletcher with local drawings by GP Rhodes"
December (TBC)	Christmas Dinner	

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

VALENTINE'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA FOR 2

Thursday 14th Feb
3pm - 5pm

Booking Essential. £25 for 2 people
Available to book online.

VALENTINE'S DAY FEAST at BEAST

Thursday 14th Feb
6pm - 9pm

Beast returns for a special
Valentine's evening dinner.

Booking Essential. Available to book online.

VALENTINE'S BOUQUETS

Don't forget your flowers!

Bouquets available to order online.
Click & Collect

WEDDING SHOWCASE

Sunday 17th Feb
10am - 3pm

Includes Fizz & Canapes

Let us show you how you could
have your bespoke, dream
wedding here on the farm.

HAMPERS

Complete your special occasions
with our you fill we wrap hampers,
specially selected hampers and/or
our Farmer Copleys gift cards.

Available to order online.

NEW
2019

COPLEY'S BARN DANCE

Saturday 16th Feb
7pm till late

This year we will be holding a
special American style Barn
Dance with live music from

THE AMERICAN COWBOY AND
his band. All you can eat
American style buffet.

Booking Essential.
Tickets - £15 Under 16's - £25 Adults.
For more information and to book
visit www.farmercopleys.co.uk/shop

BRITISH PIE WEEK

4th - 10th March

Celebrating our Bakers pies all
week throughout the Farm Shop
& Moo Café with fabulous inspired
daily specials to enjoy in Moo
or take home for tea.

PANCAKE DAY Tuesday 5th March

Let us have the mess!

Moo Café is serving sweet & savoury
pancakes this Shrove Tuesday,
perfect for an after school treat.

MOTHER'S DAY FARMHOUSE FEAST

Sunday 31st March
12pm - 4pm

Treat your loved ones to an O.T.T.
Farmhouse Feast upstairs in The Barn.

Booking Essential. £18.95 Adults / £9 Under 12's
See our website for more details.

For more information visit www.farmercopleys.co.uk

Follow us on facebook for all the weekly goings-on.

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inspirational
teaching
worth?



What is
confidence
worth?



What is high
achievement
worth?



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With thanks to our business members...

- Gold Member -



- Silver Member -



- Silver Member -



- Silver Member -



- Silver Member -



- Silver Member -



- Silver Member -



- Silver Member -



- Silver Member -



- Silver Member -



- Gold Member -



- Silver Member -



- Silver Member -



- Silver Member -



- Bronze Member -



- Bronze Member -

