



PONTEFRAC
CIVIC SOCIETY

PONTEFRAC

Voice

DECEMBER 2022



Merry Christmas and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR



FROM ALL THE TRUSTEES AT
PONTEFRAC
CIVIC SOCIETY

www.pontrfractcivicsociety.org.uk

CARTNERS NO.5 CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS IS NO.1

Pontefract Civic Society is proud to announce that **Cartners No. 5's** new bar on Shoemarket scopped 1st place in this year's Christmas display competition judged by 13 pupils from six primary schools.



Phil Cook presents Cartners No.5 with their 1st Place Christmas Display Certificate 2022

Paul Cartwright, civic society Chair said "We were delighted by this year's response with over 50 decorated businesses, which was understandably slightly down on last year, though the quality of around 20% of those judged was impressive in the eyes of the pupils. We know all the displays have brightened up the town, which encourages customers and families to explore, and enjoy the Christmas spirit"

Paul went on to say, "we've seen the enthusiasm building for window dressing during and after the pandemic, with things like the Liquorice Festival and Halloween, so this year, we provided the pupils with a little more guidance to look for what really wowed them from first impressions, and single points separated the top seven businesses".

A surprise 2nd place went to the **Indoor Market Hall**, which was a mix of numerous inflatables, wrapped parcels, garlands, and a focal stall with a memory tree supporting the Prince of Wales Hospice, plus individual stalls had decorations.



Paul Cartwright and Phil Cook present the Indoor Market the 2nd Place Christmas Display Certificate 2022

Last year's winner, **Nail Express** on Finkle Street was closely beaten into a worthy 3rd place this year. Others which sparkled in the eyes of school pupils were Forever After, The Mad Ox, Jackie's Florist, Beastfair Vaults, and The Tea Shop on Shoemarket.

Sarah Webster, Carleton Park J&I Officer Manager, said, "The year 2 pupils from the School Council had a wonderful time".

Richard Grace, St. Giles C. E. Headteacher, said, "It's such a great opportunity for our children to participate in the judging alongside other schools in Pontefract. It's such lovely festive activity, which is always well organised by the Pontefract Civic Society and we look forward to working with them more in the new year".

Paul Cartwright and Phil Cook presented framed certificates to the top three, and civic society's Peter Ferrari took the photographs, with additional ones provided by Christine Cartwright and Phil Cook.

Our judges, representatives including Head Boys & Head Girls, School Council members and others came from St Giles CofE Academy, and Pontefract Academies Trust – Larks Hill, Carleton Park, Halfpenny Lane, De Lacy, and Orchard Head.



Paul Cartwright presents Nail Express the 3rd Place Christmas Display Certificate 2022



CHAIR'S REPORT

MEET THE MAYOR

On Wednesday 16th November, a party of 12 civic society members were treated to a meeting with the Mayor of Wakefield, our very own Cllr David Jones, in the Mayor's Parlour at Wakefield Town Hall.

It was more than just a meeting, as the ceremonial heritage and tradition of the role, the robes, and implements were all explained. As examples, the style of chains and hats do differ between a male mayor and a female mayor.

Also, the much-prized Pontefract chain of office came up from the vault, which was a nice touch, and I was allowed to wear it, for a short while. Tea, coffee and cakes was an added touch in the parlour. The whole event and stories told were supported by Nina Barratt, Member Development Officer in the Mayor's office, accompanied by the macebearer.

Some members then stayed on to witness a Citizenship Ceremony in the old court/council chamber. This gave an insight into the varied role that the Mayor performs, and we got to see the joy and excitement from the individuals swearing the oath, and by their supportive family members taking photographs at the end of the event.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

As well as a display on the town hall, Pontefract Decoration Squad added to the war memorial area in Cornmarket, and into Beastfair, with poppy displays on a number of tree guards, and by adding poppies to a number of lamp posts and sign posts.

We would like to thank all members of the community who contributed with bottle bottoms and confectionery tubs.

The breadth of what we do can be demonstrated by, who and how we engage and work collectively with many organisations and teams, take a look further below this report.

- The Prince of Wales Hospice
- Five Towns Print & Design
- The Magistrates Market
- Cartners No 5
- Pontefract & Castleford Express
- BBC Radio Leeds
- Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens
- Friends of Pontefract Park for their 'Picnic in the Park'
- KLH Craft Fairs to share the history of the town hall
- King's Croft Hotel and the Liquorice Singers
- Railfuture Yorkshire Branch meeting in Todmorden
- Civic Voice webinars

- YHACS, our regional association, with a visit to Doncaster including the new library and museum
- Elizabeth Love Trust
- St John Ambulance
- Castleford & Pontefract Lions Club (Lantern Festival, and Santa's Grotto)
- Eat Around
- Sealed Knot
- Wakefield Council teams (Pontefract Delivery Group, regeneration, culture, events, markets, highways, planning, libraries, castles & museums, events & function, Mayor's office, Cllr Darren Byford, and the Leader & Deputy Leader)
- Royal British Legion
- All Heritage Open Days partners
- Priory Rose Vintage Tractor Group
- ActionCoach
- Panda IT
- Hosted two visitors from Seattle, USA tracing ancestors
- Wakefield Community Foundation - *Phil Cook received a Unsung Hero award*
- Arcadis undertaking a 10 year management plan for Pontefract Park
- Light Up events in Pontefract, and visited events in Wakefield and Knottingley
- Haworth Group and Prince of Wales Liaison Group
- West Yorkshire Police
- Northern Powerhouse Partnership webinar on Place Strategy
- New College Pontefract
- St Giles CofE Academy and Pontefract Academies Trust schools
- All 2022 Design Award nominees



MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Mr & Mrs Geoff Rogers
- Helen Senior
- Christopher Walker
- The Old Grocers – *Silver business member*
- Diane & Zara Atkinson
- Shirley Bedford
- Jo & John Hewitt
- Ann Nicholls – *Returning member*
- St Giles with St Mary's Pantomime/
Theatre Society – *Community group member*
- Media Securities Ltd – *Silver business member*
- K creations by Kaz – *Bronze business member*
- James Lodge



Dave Hogg presents a thank you gift to Mollie Garbett



Croquet at Picnic in the Park



A Christmas Carol (Scrooge) by Chris Cade

2023 FEES

With the exception of members who joined at Heritage Open Days and afterwards, it is now time to consider renewing your membership for 2023.

We have plenty of exciting things in store, and a great civic society can only continue to deliver for Pontefract with the support of our members.

It couldn't be simpler to renew online:
[http://www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/
 product-category/membership/](http://www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/product-category/membership/)

POTENTIAL BUSINESS MEMBERS

Our member offer is on the website, though if you wish to talk to us first, do please get in touch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE GROUP

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS FESTIVAL SUCCESS IN CHALLENGING TIMES

The planned doubling in size of Heritage Open Days in and around Pontefract was slightly curtailed, though the remainder was a tremendous success for Pontefract Civic Society, our partners and the many visitors.

Talks and tours took place and buildings opened their doors in Pontefract, Carleton, Darrington, Ackworth, Knottingley, Ferrybridge and Brotherton.

We planned for 50 events and activities, 27 of which were brand new, and we actually delivered 45 of these aided by 27 partner organisations and individuals; under the circumstances that's pretty remarkable.

Some events were fully booked soon after release and others soon followed, namely Pontefract Park through the Ages, Imagine Pontefract 200 years Ago, Masonic Hall, Darrington Farming Walk, Past Retail & Social Gillygate, Pluto: Planet or not? (Rosse Observatory), as were many of the events at Pontefract Castle.

We were really pleased with the positive response from all of our partners, including nine new partners to the festival,



and from the general public who were both enthusiastic and really interested in Pontefract's rich heritage.

Visitors from across Wakefield district and far beyond really enjoyed the variety in our extensive programme, and I was pleased to see some faces at multiple events, which must suggest that we've got it

right. The Mayor performs, and we got to see the joy and excitement from the individuals swearing the oath, and by their supportive family members taking photographs at the end of the event.



ST JOHN AMBULANCE WAR DEAD HONoured

Whilst this article is in the Heritage Report, it was a true collaboration of a number of members supported by Rebecca at Pontefract Library, with the team ably being led by our vice chair and former St John Ambulance officer, Phil Cook.

Following three months of extensive preparation and research led jointly by Pontefract Civic Society and Pontefract Library, a memorial to St John Ambulance members lost in both world wars has been saved, conserved, and moved into public view, and it will be unveiled in Pontefract Town Hall on Fri 11th November by His Right Worshipful, The Mayor of Wakefield District, Cllr David Jones.



Phil Cook, civic society vice chair and a former St John officer "as the unit moved out of its Newgate HQ, it was important to save the memorial with the support of Wakefield Council. It's been a really interesting past three months of intensive

research on both the individuals named on the memorial, and the impact that the St John Ambulance organisation had on Pontefract and the surrounding villages in



supporting the war effort, including helping injured service personnel". The invitation only memorial ceremony will include current

and past St John members, civic leaders, and family members of those named. Canon June Lawson will say prayers, and the researched history will also be available on the day, and afterwards for those who can't attend.

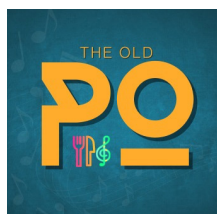


Dwain Longley, Regional President in the North East, said:

"We are very grateful to Pontefract Civic Society for their work to have our St John memorial plaque mounted in the Town Hall where it will be on permanent display. Our volunteers worked tirelessly in a number of ways, both in England and overseas, to provide assistance during the First and Second World Wars, and this is a very fitting way to commemorate their actions many decades ago."



WELCOME TO PONTEFRACT



TOOTH & TIGER

HEADHUNTERS

VOLUNTEER APPEAL

Honorary Secretary

Administrators or Secretaries

Each working group needs admin support for a few hours per month or week, depending on the group.

Trustees & Coordinators

If anyone fancies giving this a go, let Paul know.

Specific project areas

fundraising, research, helping our PR stall; could you be the person to link our activities with schools, or could you support our talks programme, and help with visits to businesses and other towns.



PONTEFRACT

Events 2023



PCS TALK & EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS

JANUARY

- 25** "RAILWAYS OF PONTEFRACT – PAST & PRESENT"
by Peter Cookson
- 30** 2022 DESIGN AWARDS
Town Hall

15-17 & 19-21

DICK WHITTINGTON PANTOMIME
Town Hall

FEBRUARY

- 15** PONTEFRACT WAKES FAIR, AND HISTORY OF FAIRGROUNDS
by Steven Smith
- 28** CIVIC SOCIETY AGM
Town Hall

MARCH

- 15** FIRST SIEGE OF PONTEFRACT CASTLE
by David Cooke
- 18** COMMUNITY SHOWCASE
Town Hall

29 EASTER EGG HUNT
Friarwood Valley Gardens

APRIL

- 19** A LIFE IN MAGIC
by Ray Roberts

11 PONTEFRACT RACES

24 PONTEFRACT RACES

MAY

- 17** ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL
Performance by Chris Cade

3 PONTEFRACT RACES

6 KING CHARLES III CORONATION

14 HOSPICE CYCLOTHON
Ponterfract RUFC

26 PONTEFRACT RACES

JUNE

- 10** WHEELFEST
Town Centre
- 17** CIVIC DAY
- 21** PRISON TO PALACE
by Veronica Bird
- 3** HOSPICE SUMMER FAIR
- 12** PONTEFRACT RACES
- 17** ARMED FORCES DAY
Ponterfract Park
- 25** PONTEFRACT RACES

PCS TALK & EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS

JULY

- 8** LIQUORICE SHOOTS
Town Centre
- 19** WHAT MADE YORKSHIRE GREAT, AND WORKING WITH JOHN POULSON
by Stewart Hartley

3 PONTEFRACT RACES

9 LIQUORICE FESTIVAL
Town centre, castle & Friarwood Valley Gardens

11 PONTEFRACT RACES

21 PONTEFRACT RACES

30 PONTEFRACT RACES

AUGUST

1 YORKSHIRE DAY
Friarwood Valley Gardens

9 PONTEFRACT RACES

12 FRIARWOOD FESTIVAL
Friarwood Valley Gardens

20 PONTEFRACT RACES

SEPTEMBER

- 8-17** HERITAGE OPEN DAYS
Various Location
- 20** THE VICTORIAN CIRCUSES OF LEEDS
by Steve Ward
- 21** PONTEFRACT RACES
- 28** PONTEFRACT RACES

OCTOBER

- 18** THE BATTLE OF FLAMBOROUGH HEAD
by Dave Cooke
- 9** PONTEFRACT RACES
- 23** PONTEFRACT RACES
- TBC** LIONS LANTERN FESTIVAL
Castle & Friarwood Valley Gardens

NOVEMBER

- 15** A DAY IN THE LIFE OF YORKSHIRE COAL MINER
by Dave Hogg
- 11** ARMISTICE DAY
- 12** REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

For more information, contact us by email:

✉ info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

or visit us on social media:

f @PontefractCivic



COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS

PONTEFRACT IN BLOOM



The Yorkshire in Bloom judges visited Pontefract on 19th July, the hottest day of the year, but they were impressed and awarded Pontefract Gold in the large town category.



The judging visit started at Pontefract Park, inspecting the planting around Aspire, and the flower beds and lakeside boats maintained by Friends of the Park.

Then to the Valley Gardens to see the flower beds, tree sculptures and Rose Garden, and into the Town Centre. As well as the numerous floral planters and hanging baskets, there was also the new permanent planters containing sustainable planting and the impressive Jubilee Planters at the Museum.

The visit finished at the Castle to inspect the herb garden which is maintained by Castle volunteers. Despite the long, hot drought the displays were well maintained and certainly impressed Yorkshire in Bloom. Pontefract in Bloom is determined to do as well in 2023, but the credit for the Gold Award is shared with Friends of Pontefract Park, Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens, St Giles' Church, the Castle volunteers, and Wakefield Council, including the Park Rangers.



FRIENDS OF FRIARWOOD VALLEY GARDENS

Another successful year for Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens.

A thermoplastic play trail was completed in May, and in July several tree sculptures were carved, including a friar at the Friarwood Lane entrance.

Four new trees were planted, to replace trees that had died and had been used for the carvings. During the summer the group was fortunate to have the help of the young people of the National Citizen Service on three occasions, performing a variety of voluntary work in the Gardens. The NCS also contributed several hundred pounds to our funds from their



fund-raising efforts. Volunteers continued with gardening and maintenance work throughout the year, tending the Rose Garden, Sensory Garden and flower beds – every Saturday at 2pm. There were five events in the Valley Gardens this year,

In July several tree sculptures were carved, including a friar at the Friarwood Lane entrance.

starting with the Jubilee Picnic in June which was marred by poor weather, but the other events in July and August enjoyed excellent days and were a great success. The

proceeds from Friarwood Festival in particular paid for the play trail and contributed toward the cost of the tree carvings.

The last event was the Lantern Festival organised by the Lions Club and was as popular as ever. The last event of the year was The Christmas Trail, on Saturday 10th December, which was very well supported.



FRIENDS OF PONTEFRACT PARK

The litter picking group has continued to meet every Wednesday at 10am throughout the year, and a litter picking station has been set up in the foyer of Aspire for park visitors to litter pick at other times.

Litter picking equipment is also available for group picks by arrangement. The Peter's Lost Peregrine booklet to accompany the trail around the Park is now on sale in Aspire. There was a launch event during the autumn half term.

Friends of the Park facilitated the provision of a bench and outdoor gym station in memory of Ken Bingley, a stalwart of Pontefract parkrun. The highlight of the year was Picnic in the Park in August, which was blessed with good weather and was a great success.

The group is now looking forward to the children's playground renovation which is due to be completed by



spring 2023, and the repair of the crumbling lakeside later in the year. Friends of Pontefract Park have also fed into the Pontefract Park Plan which will be published soon.



Heritage Open Days in Pontefract town hall



Lantern Festival



Lantern Festival



Underdrive Johnny



Jubilee Tree plaque in Friarwood Valley Gardens



Christmas and the Castle



Heritage Open Days Tractors visited by Cllr Denise Jeffery

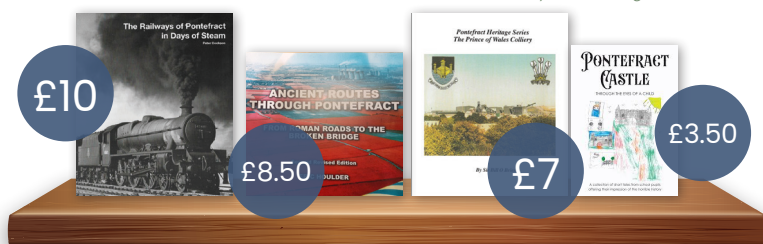
BOOKSHELF



The J.S. Fletcher G.P. Rhodes Collaboration
by Roger Ellis

Pontefract's Chequered History
by Roger Ellis

Pontefract - Celebrating the Past; Looking to the Future
compiled by Martin Lodge

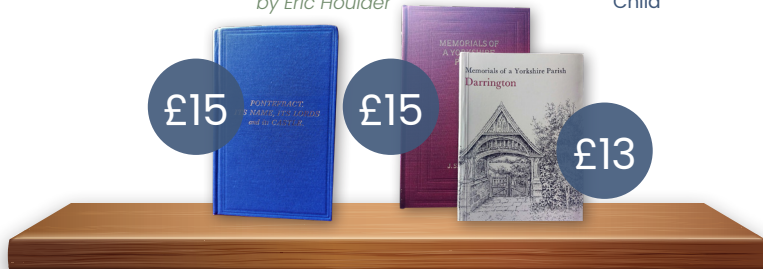


The Railways of Pontefract in Days of Steam
by Peter Cookson

Ancient Routes through Pontefract (2nd edition)
by Eric Houlder

The Prince of Wales Colliery
by Sir Bill O'Brien

Pontefract Castle; Through the Eyes of a Child



Pontefract: Its Name, its Lord and its Castle

Memorials of a Yorkshire Parish Darrington



£1.75

We also have a stock of quality branded pens for just £1.00, and lapel badges at £3.00. Please show your support for Pontefract Civic Society; let's get noticed!



£3

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

www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk/shop
alternatively phone: 01977 708658 or
Email: info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk
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DONATIONS & BEQUESTS

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

Pontefract Voice and our Annual Reports show the tremendous work the society and our members are doing to make Pontefract a better place. To continue our important work, then additional active members are always beneficial.

The civic society is both independent and non-political. As the town's 'watchdog' for the built environment, highways, rail, planning, architecture, heritage, events, business, and public amenities, we can speak on behalf of those who live, work, are educated here, or visit Pontefract, without fear or favour.

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

Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member
				
Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member	Gold Member
				
Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member
				
Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member	Silver Member
				
Silver Member	Bronze Member	Bronze Member	Bronze Member	Bronze Member
				

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MEMBERSHIPS & PARTNERSHIPS

