



YORKSHIRE & HUMBER  
Association of Civic Societies

Member of



# SOCIETY INSIGHT

## STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINING HERITAGE CHAMPIONS IN YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER...

### .....OUR SURVEY

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**How is your civic society doing? We very much hope it is developing well.**

But perhaps it has struggled to recover post Covid. These can be difficult times. Are you attracting enough volunteers? Have you some great examples of conserving heritage or perhaps protecting the environment.? Have you managed to broaden the range of participants? What projects have you been prevented from doing through lack of capacity – people or financially? What would make your organisation more sustainable?



*Brainstorming,  
Addingham*

These are some of the questions posed by our survey - of which you should have an email copy already. You can download a copy of the questionnaire at this link: [Complete Our Survey – YHACS](#)

We want to make YHACS able to support a vibrant and active civic society movement in Yorkshire and the Humber, recognising our capacity to help you is only limited by the time and energy our committee can make available. Though our civic movement in Yorkshire and the Humber is strong, our own membership has declined and this may reflect the challenges you increasingly face as civic societies.

To help you thrive and ensure YHACS is in a better able to support you we have had discussions with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) about supporting a project to build resilience and capacity in the civic movement in our region including targeted support to perhaps 10 societies in the region, with potentially small grant support, training and development activities, a roadshow across the

region and improving YHACS own communications.

More details are in the introduction to the questionnaire which we have structured around the four investment principles of NLHF:

- **Saving Heritage**
- **Protecting the Environment**
- **Inclusion, access and participation**
- **Organisational sustainability**

NLHF's vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. The investment principles all support this and are very much in line with our own ethos.

*Contemplating the Piece  
Hall, Halifax.  
Courtesy of A Goodrum*



We have received encouraging feedback from initial discussions with NLHF but we will need to refine the project for it ultimately to be successful in what is a highly competitive environment.

Most of all we will need to develop the **evidence** base of the **need** for the project and this is where we need **your feedback** as an organisation involved in our heritage in Yorkshire and the Humber region. It is essential to the likely success of our bid that we receive information from as many civic societies as possible.

Well done to those societies who have already responded.

We will be talking about the challenges you face at the AGM in Harrogate and **we urge you to respond to this survey as soon as possible.**

**Alan Goodrum**  
**Vice Chair, YHACS**

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

**As we enter 2025 I have chance to reflect on my first year as Chair of YHACS – a year of anniversaries, changes and new opportunities.**

### Anniversaries

YHACS marked its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which we celebrated with a lunch in Leeds in October. It was a wonderful occasion to get together, enjoy good food and wine and network with other societies.



*YHACS members enjoying our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary lunch in October.*



*Abigail Scott Paul, our speaker at the anniversary lunch.*

Our speaker, Abigail Scott Paul, Global Director of the Humanise Campaign, working at Thomas Heatherwick Studios, gave us some food for thought about the campaign to create human-centred, socially beneficial and sustainable architecture. Thanks to Leeds Civic Trust for all their help in making this such a successful and memorable event and to all who joined us at the Met Hotel.

Several of our societies also marked significant birthdays last year, including Hull, Wakefield, Scarborough and Huddersfield, who all turned 60. I attended some very enjoyable celebrations with them.

Thank you for the invitations, please keep them coming. My aim is to get around as many of our societies as possible.

### Changes

2024 was a year of change for YHACS, as I took over as Chair and Kevin Trickett became Honorary President. We also had changes on the Executive Committee with a new Vice-Chair, Alan Goodrum, a new Treasurer, Jane Lee, and a new Trustee, Simon Green.

Two of our long-standing Trustees, Malcolm Sharman and Tony Leonard, stepped down from the committee. I would like to thank both for their valuable contribution to YHACS over many years.

There were also changes at Civic Voice. Ian Harvey, who co-founded the organisation in 2010 and is regarded by many of us as 'Mr Civic Voice', stepped down as Executive Director to take up an exciting new post, leading

the Institute of Place Management at Manchester Metropolitan University.

But he didn't quite get away. At the Civic Voice AGM last month, he was appointed as its Vice-President and was presented with a special 'Blue Plaque' by the President, Griff Rhys Jones. We wish Ian well and I'm sure we'll be seeing more of him in both his new roles.

Meanwhile Civic Voice is in the process of recruiting a new Executive Officer, not exactly a like-for-like replacement for Ian, who I'm sure you would agree was one of a kind.



*Ian Harvey receiving a special 'Blue Plaque' from Civic Voice President Griff Rhys Jones.*

In addition, Martin Hamilton, a YHACS Trustee, stepped down as Chair of Civic Voice after steering it through a tricky few years. Civic Voice has now adopted a Co-Chair leadership model, with Robert Osborne and Andrew Jackson stepping into the roles. Barry Goodchild, who is on Wakefield Civic Society's Executive Committee, was elected as a Civic Voice Trustee. Hopefully he will be joining us at our AGM in Harrogate.

Nationally we had a change of Government and a promise to Get Britain Building Again, which inevitably will bring changes to the planning system and impact on all our communities.

The new Government got off to a quick start and many of us spent the summer poring over the proposed changes to the NPPF in response to the Government consultation. We also joined virtual workshops with Civic Voice, which incredibly managed to collate a national response, discovering a surprisingly broad consensus on many of the issues.

This has been followed by a raft of Government announcements relating to housing and planning, which I've tried to unpick in my article in this issue.

### **New opportunities**

We as YHACS Trustees try our hardest to support our members across the region, offering our experience, advice and practical help where possible. But, like our member societies, we are volunteers and constrained by available time and money.

The Civic Voice/YHACS Spring Convention in Wakefield in April 2024, a brilliant feat of organisation by Kevin Trickett and Wakefield Civic Society, highlighted the important role of civic societies in our communities. It showcased the valuable contributions they are making now and could expand in the future, given additional capacity.

Following the Convention, Kevin was contacted by one of the speakers, Louise Clare from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), who was interested in supporting the growth of the civic movement and making

societies more sustainable.

We have continued the dialogue with the NLHF and had our Expression of Interest for funding accepted. This allows us to progress to a full application which, if successful, will greatly increase our capacity to support and sustain a vibrant civic movement in Yorkshire and the Humber – something we would all like to see.



*Here I am speaking about the vital role of civic societies at the Spring Convention.*

Now the hard work begins and we need your help. We have to demonstrate the need for our project, from an outsider's perspective, and make a case for why YHACS and its member societies are uniquely positioned to address the need - protecting our heritage, contributing to placemaking and making a positive impact on our local communities.

Our Vice-Chair, Alan Goodrum, has taken the lead on collating a survey to explore the state of the civic movement in the region, its aspirations for the future and the challenges it faces. The survey has been circulated and I would ask all our societies to respond to ensure our bid is successful.

### **Builders not blockers**

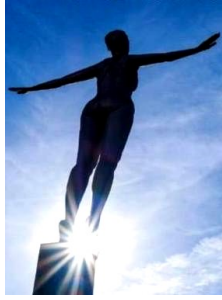
The Government's various announcements on planning reform have been peppered with the rhetoric we have come to expect from all political parties. The Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, declared: *"Our Plan for Change will put builders not blockers first, overhaul the broken planning system and put roofs over the heads of working families."*

The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Angela Rayner, echoed: *"Today's landmark overhaul will sweep away last year's damaging changes and shake up a broken planning system which caves in to the blockers and obstructs the builders."*

Now I'm far from naïve and I know how snappy buzzwords such as 'blockers', 'builders' and 'broken' can grab the headlines (NIMBY is another one). However, I do think there's a danger of polarising the issue, with parties labelled either as a 'blocker' or a 'builder'. I fear that civic societies who voice legitimate concerns on behalf of their communities will be unfairly dismissed as 'blockers'. As we all know, we are 'builders' who have worked tirelessly for decades to protect and grow our towns and cities, making them better places for everyone to live, work and relax in.

I am not taking a party-political stance on this, just pointing out that as well as black and white there are shades of grey, as there are within the green belt! I hope that, beyond the rhetoric, the Government will see the value of civic societies as trusted partners in building a better Britain.

**Margaret Hicks-Clarke**  
YHACS Chair



## SCARBOROUGH'S PLAQUE TO WILFRED OWEN RENEWED



As part of our 60th anniversary theme to REFRESH, RESTORE and RENEW, the Wilfred Owen blue plaque is a replacement for the plaque which the society had originally unveiled nearly 25 years ago. The Clifton Hotel is on the cliff top in North Bay and being next to the sea it's a very tough environment for any metal object, hence the need to replace it.

At the unveiling Dr Paul Elsam paid tribute to the poet. He said: *"It was quite a poignant ceremony, with a good mix of ages in attendance including around 10 A-Level students from Bridlington School."*

*'Owen wrote some of his best known poems at the Clifton and I chose to read one which I am certain was written at the hotel, "The Calls".'*

*"The Calls" described the various calls he could hear from his window, including the foghorn at dawn, and the feeling of pressure to go back to fight.'*

Owen returned to active service, but was killed in action during an unsuccessful British attempt to bridge the Sambre Canal, near the French village of Ors, on November 4 1918, one week before the end of the war. He was 25.

**Adrian Perry**

Photo: Richard Ponter



## STARMER DELIVERS SACKFUL OF PLANNING PACKAGES

**There was a flurry of pre-Christmas activity from the Government with a sackful of announcements that will have a significant impact on local planning.**

On 5<sup>th</sup> December, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer launched the Government's much heralded 'Plan for Change', which includes its mission to kickstart the economy, renewing its ambitious commitment to building 1.5 million homes in England this Parliament.

Four days later, on 9<sup>th</sup> December, the Government introduced its 'Planning Reform Working Paper: Planning Committees', which aims to streamline the planning system and speed up development.

Then on 12<sup>th</sup> December it announced 'landmark' planning changes, publishing the final version of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) following the consultation exercise that a great many of us engaged with in August and September.

Finally, on 16<sup>th</sup> December, came the launch of the 'English Devolution White Paper', which promises to give Mayors strong new powers over housing, planning, transport, energy, skills, employment support and more.

After the Christmas festivities, I sat down to remove the fancy wrapping and take a closer look inside the packages.

While I applaud the bold ambitions to combat the housing crisis and provide much-needed homes, particularly social and affordable ones, there are considerable logistical, financial and legislative challenges to be overcome if the 1.5 million target is to be delivered. In the rush to build, care must be taken to ensure that the new homes are of the right type and quality and in the right places, not just the most lucrative for the developers.

Civic Voice, which collated NPPF consultation responses from societies across the country, including Yorkshire and the Humber, welcomed the revised NPPF as 'a much-needed step in the right direction' but stressed that collaboration between national and local government and the necessary financial, legislative and personnel resources would be key.

You can read Civic Voice's full response on its website. <https://www.civicvoice.org.uk/news/civic-voice-nppf-response/>

A tracked changes version of the NPPF, comparing the new and previous documents, is available via: <https://draftable.com/compare/DFMgKSGStuyC>

**Here are some of the key points I have gleaned from the announcements:**

### **Targets**

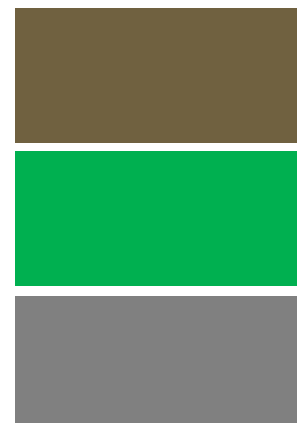
Councils will be given new immediate mandatory housing targets to ramp up housebuilding and be required to adopt a local plan based on the new targets. They will be given three months to progress local plans that are currently in development, subject to conditions that catch those which significantly undershoot the new targets. Where plans based on old targets are still in place from July 2026, councils will need to provide for an extra year's supply of homes in their pipeline – six years instead of five.

### **Brown, green or grey?**

Brownfield land must continue to be the first port of call for any new development and the default answer when asked to build on brownfield should always be 'yes'. But recognising that brownfield land cannot meet all the requirements, the updated NPPF will also require councils to review their greenbelt boundaries to meet targets, identifying and prioritising lower quality 'greybelt' land.

Any development in the green belt must meet strict requirements, following new 'golden rules', which require developers to provide the necessary infrastructure for local communities and a premium level of social and affordable housing.

Councils and developers will also need to give greater consideration to social rent when building new homes and local leaders will have greater powers to



build genuinely affordable homes for those who need them most.

To support councils to update their local plans and review their current greenbelt land, areas will receive an additional £100 million that can be used to hire staff and consultants as well as more resources to carry out technical studies and site assessments. Planning fees are being increased to fund an additional 300 planning officers.

The NPPF also includes requirements to ensure homes are high quality and well designed without stalling growth, though the word 'beautiful' has been dropped. The Government has also committed to updating the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code this Spring.

Another key date will be July 2025, when an independent **New Towns Taskforce** is due to submit recommendations to ministers on appropriate locations for significant new communities, including large-scale urban extension and regeneration schemes.

### Planning Committee Reform

The 'Planning Reform Working Paper: Planning Committees' is inviting views on models for a national scheme of modernising how planning committees work .

This involves:

- A national scheme of delegation – bringing clarity and consistency to everyone about which applications get decided by officers and which by committees. Basically, anything that is in line with the local plan would be delegated to officers.
- Dedicated committees for strategic development – allowing a dedicated and small group of councillors to devote their time to the most significant projects.
- Training for committee members – requiring that councillors undertake appropriate training before they can form part of a planning committee (which one would have thought should already be a requirement!)



All three reforms would require changes to primary legislation through the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

Some of the issues the Working Paper highlights in the current system are:

- Many local schemes of delegation do not provide full clarity on whether or not an application will go to committee, which can cause uncertainty for developers.
- Too much time can be spent considering applications that are compliant with the local plan or applications for post-permission matters.
- Planning committees are rejecting applications against officer advice which are then overturned on appeal, delaying development and wasting taxpayers' money.
- Insufficient understanding among all committee members of planning principles and law.
- Lack of transparency of committee decisions and their consequences – especially if a committee refuses an application and there is a successful appeal with costs awarded against the local planning authority.



The paper cites examples of the above, including one from an unnamed borough council in Northern England, which someone may recognise.

### **Residential development on allocated greenfield site in Northern England**

*The site was allocated in the Local Plan for residential use. In Autumn 2022 an application for planning permission was submitted for a development of approx. 100 dwellings on the site. Planning officers recommended to the planning committee that the application be approved in Autumn 2023. The planning committee decided to refuse it. An appeal was made by the applicant and the Inspector, in Summer 2024, agreed the appeal should be upheld and granted permission.*



You can read the full details of the Working Paper at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-reform-working-paper-planning-committees>

This is not a formal consultation but interested parties are invited to submit responses to eight questions about three options set out in the paper, possibly a worthwhile exercise for your society's planning sub-committee.

### **English Devolution White Paper**

The overarching aim of the 'English Devolution White Paper' is to create Strategic Authorities for every part of England with stronger powers for elected Mayors. Current Combined Authorities will be designated Strategic Authorities.

We already have Combined Authorities for North, South and West Yorkshire with another on the way this year for Hull and East Yorkshire. Our friends in Grimsby and Cleethorpes will become part of Greater Lincolnshire.

Under the proposals, Mayors would be given new development management powers, similar to those exercised by the Mayor of London. This would include the ability to call in planning applications of strategic importance.

They would be given control of grant funding for regeneration and housing delivery and would be able to charge developers a Mayoral Levy to ensure that new developments come with the necessary associated infrastructure.

Homes England would move to a more regionalised model, with accountability to Mayors. Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities would also have the ability to set the strategic direction of any future affordable housing programme.

South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Combined Authorities would be among the first to receive a consolidated budget across housing, regeneration, local growth, local transport, skills, retrofit, and employment support.

You can read more about this at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper>

So, if you would like to settle down with a good read in the dark cold days of Winter, there's plenty to catch up with here. Happy New Year.

**Margaret Hicks-Clarke**  
**YHACS Chair**



## MAYOR UNVEILS PLAQUE FOR HALIFAX CIVIC TRUST AWARD - HALIFAX ROTARY VIEWING PLATFORM

### The Viewing Platform, Beacon Hill by Rotary Halifax

This came out of idea born in 2010 and was accomplished as part of the Rotary Centenary for 2022 and involved design, fundraising, liaison with Calderdale Council and a vision to showcase the remarkable beauty of Beacon hill and the modern-day vista of Halifax. The project was completed in May 2023.



### The Award

Alan Goodrum chair of Halifax Civic Trust stated that *“Halifax Rotary should be commended on an imaginative design, high standard of workmanship, maintenance, community basis & valuable Interpretation of the town as it now is. The development is a worthy winner of the Halifax Civic Trust 2024 Award.”*

The working group from Halifax Rotary included Michael Steele, Bryan Harkness, Ken Robertshaw, Andrew Marshall and architect Grant Stott. They were presented with a plaque at an unveiling event in the presence of the Mayor on Beacon Hill on a foggy October morning overlooking the Town.

The mayor (Cllr Anne Kingstone) said it was a privilege to unveil the award in recognition of the work of Halifax Rotary and their viewing platform reflecting the beauty of the view over the town. The mayor complimented the stonework of the platform and was thrilled to be invited as this was her first opportunity to visit Beacon Hill, recalling the importance of the Beacon being lit to national



*Pictured with the Mayor (Cllr Anne Kingstone) are members of Halifax Rotary, Halifax Civic Trust and a group of walkers who watched the unveiling ceremony.*

events including the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen. Bryan Harkness from the Rotary Club of Halifax stated *‘We are delighted to have received the award and trust the development at Beacon Hill will be enjoyed by townsfolk and visitors for many years to come.’*

**Mark Fennelly**

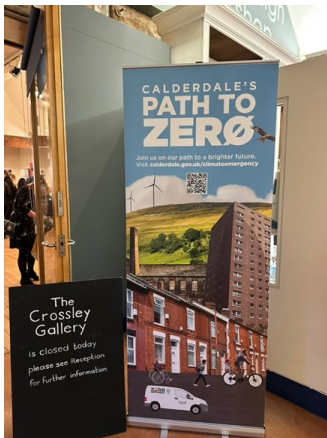
## HALIFAX'S HALLOWEEN NIGHT!

On Halloween night we held our very popular walking tour with David exploring some gruesome deaths and sad endings and unsolved murders in Halifax's past. We kept our walkers fuelled with pumpkin lollipops and chocolate eyeballs in the Halloween spirit!



Thank you to those who came and supported our event. We hope you slept soundly afterwards.

## FROM INSIGHT TO ACTION.. ..LOCAL SOLUTIONS FOR NET ZERO CONFERENCE



In November Halifax Civic Trust were pleased to be invited to attend the Net Zero conference at Dean Clough supporting Calderdale's ambitions to get to net Zero.

We were pleased to hear Calderdale Council being one of the first to produce a Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP) and the retrofit projects to help reduce carbon emissions from our traditional terraced housing. Halifax Civic Trust supports the council ambitions via the Warm and Resilient Buildings Action Plan.

**Mark Fennelly**

## WAKEFIELD CIVIC SOCIETY ANNIVERSARY RECOGNISED WITH BLUE PLAQUE



*Left to right: Cllr Darren Byford, Mayor of Wakefield; Kevin Trickett MBE, President of Wakefield Civic Society; Pam Judkins, President of Wakefield Historical Society.*

Like many civic societies, Wakefield Civic Society runs a blue plaque scheme. At the time of writing, we have unveiled nearly 80 plaques and have more in the pipeline. However, the tables were turned on us recently when Wakefield Council unveiled a blue plaque to commemorate the Society's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary alongside Wakefield Historical Society which were celebrating their centenaries in 2024.

Wakefield Civic Society and Wakefield Historical Society both have close working relationships with Wakefield Council and often work together on projects that are led by the Council or which have Council backing, and both societies, along with other community organisations, contributed to the development of a Heritage Framework for the Wakefield District. The framework, *Our Heritage, Our Stories*, has been formally adopted by the Council and was launched at an event at Wakefield Town Hall in May 2024.

[\(You can see a short film about the launch event here.\)](#)

To deliver the aspirations contained in the Heritage Framework, the Council made a successful bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), something that Wakefield Civic Society actively supported. The result was the award of a grant of £245,623 which enabled the Council to appoint a Heritage Development Manager for two years and we are now working with the appointee, Tegwen Roberts, on implementing aspects of the Framework.

As already mentioned, 2024 happened to be a very special year for both Wakefield Civic Society and Wakefield Historical Society as both celebrated significant anniversaries. It also happened to be a year that the Council had designated a year of creativity and culture – Our Year 2024 - a year-long

project to 'bring events and activities to every resident' and both societies had signed up as partners to deliver extra events during the year.

This concatenation of felicities inspired Graham Riding, Development Manager – Arts, Heritage and Cultural Investment at Wakefield Council, to suggest that the Council might use some of the NLHF grant to fund the cost of a blue plaque to commemorate the significant anniversaries of the two Wakefield societies. In another remarkable happenstance, the two societies had both held their formative meetings in the Kingswood Suite at Wakefield Town Hall, albeit some 40 years apart, so the idea was to position the plaque inside the Town Hall adjacent to the entrance to the Kingswood Suite.



The Council's offer was accepted and the blue plaque was commissioned (\*). It was unveiled by the Mayor of Wakefield, Councillor Darren Byford, at a Centenary Fair hosted by Wakefield Historical Society on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – in the Kingswood Suite where it all started.

**Kevin Trickett MBE,  
President, Wakefield Civic Society**

(\*). *Wakefield Town Hall is a Grade I listed building so you can't just put up a blue plaque without having some regard to the fabric of the building. In a departure from the Civic Society's usual custom of erecting aluminium plaques, the decision was made to commission a plaque made of a lighter material which could be fixed in place with smaller screws that would be less invasive, an approach supported by the Council's Conservation Officer.*

*As the plaque was going inside the building, it was agreed that using a plastic 3-D printed plaque would be acceptable.*

*The plaque was commissioned from a small family-run company, [Make Awesome](#), at a cost of just £96.*



Hull Civic Society

Promoting the future  
Protecting the past

## HULL CIVIC SOCIETY PLANS FOR A SCHOOLS' COMPETITION IN 2025

**Attracting new members to join the Hull Civic Society is a perennial challenge for committee members and we suspect also for our neighbouring Yorkshire Societies. A challenge that we are currently struggling to meet.**

Our desire is to motivate and encourage younger people to actively participate in our Society in order to ensure its longevity, to keep it current and to maintain the passion and pride in Hull. But how to engage with them?

A recent proposal is that Hull Civic Society will approach all Hull schools and colleges, of which there are about 100, to take part in a competition which we will organise and sponsor.

They will be provided with an information booklet that contains everything they need to take part. It will also contain information about the Society, our aims and how to join.

Teachers and pupils will be asked to research the history of their educational establishment and submit, via our website, a written summary along with a photograph.

Hull Civic Society will reserve the right to use the accumulated knowledge as they see fit in the future, possibly to produce a publication about the history of Hull Educational Establishments. The Society or an independent reviewer will then assess the submissions and trophies awarded accordingly. Winners will be invited to come and deliver a one hour talk to the Society.

If the competition is successful, it could be repeated again with different subject matter.

Will this lead to new members joining? No guarantee, however, this process is essentially about planting seeds that may mature in the future.

The benefit is that awareness of Hull Civic Society will be raised amongst teachers, parents and pupils, all of which could be potential future members. Additionally, because the submissions will be via the Society's website, submitters will have opportunity to look in more detail at what we are all about.

The proposal is in the early planning stages at the moment. We may run a pilot with a limited number of schools to gauge what works and what doesn't before the main competition. We aim to initiate the competition at the start of the new school year in September 2025.

Funding for production of the information booklets would be advantageous and we will be exploring potential sources in the first quarter of this year.

**Charles Trafford.**

## HORBURY STREET SIGNS

Those familiar with the term **psychogeography** will know that it is all about the **genius loci – the spirit of place** ..... and with that in mind the Horbury Civic Society set about replacing old street name signs with new ones bearing the Horbury crest.

For practical reasons we confined the project to signs fixed to posts rather than those fixed directly to walls; the reason being that wall mounted signs need the permission of the wall owner before a change and finding the wall owner was a task too far...



So far we have replaced 50 signs.

**Graham Roberts**  
Chair of Trustees

## BEVERLEY CIVIC SOCIETY'S TREES

**Beverley is, as you may know, a busy mainly Georgian market town, all the more attractive because of the large surrounding common land which borders the town to the west.**

This once rather more rural town has always been punctuated by mature trees planted roughly 200 years ago by people with great foresight. In 2021 we were conscious that these landmarks of green scaffolds which soften the streetscape would need replacing (and adding to, in areas that have little tree cover,) so a 'Tree Group' was formed to add to this legacy and ensure there will be a noticeable tree presence for generations to come.

This coincided with the anniversary of the death of St John of Beverley 1300 years ago, and it was decided that we should try and plant at least 1300 trees in Beverley (some of this would be hedging!) Initially we walked around Beverley joined by members of the Town Council, eyeing up empty grass verges and patches of open land that would benefit from adding a tree or two.

We were very lucky that the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) were providing community grants at that time and we were successful in getting a £5000 grant to spend on trees, stakes and guards. Some of the funds ended



up going back to the ERYC as we wanted trees planted on streets, squares and verges which they owned, and where only their workforce could plant.

This has enabled us to build a good relationship with the Arboriculture/ Streetscene services to whom we emailed town plans dotted in pink marker pen to show tree locations and preferred species.

We also were able to buy 30 fruit trees which we gave to members who had a suitable place to plant them. A future idea which we would still like to do, would be to give the buyers of the hundreds of newly-built homes going up on the periphery of the town, a fruit tree for their gardens. Perhaps we should encourage the developers to fund this?!

Our biggest project for 2021/2 was planting a hedge and a small woodland area on a large piece of public land within the town called the Archery Field. This is a large rectangular grassed field similar to a playing field, and used by dog walkers, families and ball games players. It is bounded by an ancient hedge on two sides and a metal fence on the other two. We asked HEYwoods to approve our planting



scheme which we felt would hugely improve this featureless grass area. After the ecological and archaeological surveys were completed, they agreed not only to plant and maintain the Archery Field, but use it for their re-launch as 'Humber Forests'. The planting team on the day included school children from the neighbouring primary school, residents and Councillors.



Money doesn't seem to go very far with tree planting, so we have looked for other sources which have included a Tesco Community Grant, where we had to compete with two other good causes for blue tokens – which we won and secured the £1,500 top prize. This again went to the ERYC for more street trees for Beverley. We have had



donations from local businesses and donations from members who would like a tree planted in memory of a loved one, or just to mark an occasion.

It has been an enormously satisfying couple of years, planting a tree anywhere, but particularly somewhere it will be seen and enjoyed by so many is just good for the soul. Never mind about how brilliant they are for wildlife, air quality, flood prevention etc, they just make such a difference to the townscape.

**Rosie Ryan**





Reg. Charity No. 1112290

[www.yhacs.org.uk](http://www.yhacs.org.uk)

Please send any articles, comments, letters or questions to the editor:

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The Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies (YHACS) is the distinct voice of the civic society movement in the Yorkshire and Humber region, and our vision is to enhance the quality of life for all citizens in the region by engaging citizens not only in the protection of local heritage but also in the promotion of sustainable economic development and urban renaissance.

Sat April 26th YHACS Spring Meeting in Hull - date to be confirmed

## NEXT YHACS MEETING

**SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 1:00 - 4:00 PM  
IN HARROGATE, OLD SWAN HOTEL, HG1 2SR**

**CONTACT: [INFO@YHACS.ORG.UK](mailto:info@yhacs.org.uk)**

### Executive Officers, Committee Members and Portfolios

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