

Yorkshire & Humber Association of Civic Societies

Registered Charity No: 1112290



www.yhacs.org.uk

Voice of the Civic Society Movement in the Region

Civic Societies Week 2010 Bulletin No 1

CIVIC SOCIETIES WEEK 2010 ANNOUNCED!

Following on the success of Civic Societies Week 2008 and 2009, YHACS is pleased to announce that Civic Societies Week will run again in 2010.



Richard Ward collects a prize certificate from Peter Spawforth on behalf of Huddersfield Civic Society

At our 10th Anniversary meeting on 7th November, we revealed the winners and runners up for the Peter Spawforth Trophy and the £250 cash prize awarded by YHACS to Societies whose efforts had scored highest when assessed by the judging panel. First Prize went to Scarborough and District Civic Society with 2nd and 3rd Prizes going to Huddersfield (see photo) and Ripon societies.

Commendations were also awarded to Bridlington, Castleford, Harrogate, Selby, Skipton in Craven and Wakefield.

On a show of hands by those present, it was clear that there was overwhelming support to continue running Civic Societies Week into 2010 so the YHACS Committee are pleased to announce the Civic Societies Week 2010 is on!

We very much hope you will support us in 2010 by taking part. We've made some changes to make it easier for you to participate.

What is Civic Societies Week?

As in previous years, Civic Societies Week is intended to help you run a project or activity that will help to raise the profile of your society within your local community. It provides an opportunity for you to showcase your work and activities to a wider audience under the umbrella of a regionally led campaign. Around 30 societies took part in Civic Societies Week in 2008 and again in 2009. Feedback received from societies that participation in the week generated enthusiasm among society members, encouraged members to get involved and, in some cases, resulted in new members being recruited. What you do is up to you: if you are short of inspiration, have a look the list on the back page of this newsletter to see what other societies have tried over the last two years.

Civic Societies Week 2010 – you get to choose the date!

In 2010, we will be adapting the approach of previous years to take account of comments we have received from member societies.

We know that some societies find the idea of having to run a project in a specific week too limiting – smaller societies in particular may have standing event in their calendar tied to a local festival so they like to run their Civic Societies Week project alongside that rather than in the week we nominate. Some have asked for Civic Societies Week to be a fortnight or even a month – which would mean that we would have to call it Civic Societies Fortnight or Civic Societies Month and this would lose the continuity of having a Civic Societies Week. However, we think we have found a way forward that will retain the idea of a special week in the calendar while also offering more flexibility to societies.

For 2010, we want societies to pick a week in which they will host their Civic Societies Week event(s) but we are going to let you pick your own week within the period from 29th May to 4th July. We will still promote the idea of a 'Civic Societies Week' in the regional publicity we issue but hope that this new arrangement will make it possible for more societies to take part. We do, however, need to keep to the early summer to allow people to run their activities before the peak holiday season and to allow the YHACS Committee to assess the results and make arrangements for the prizes and certificates to be presented at the Autumn meeting.

As in previous years, we will be hosting a regional launch event in partnership with a society in the region. In fact, in addition to the main launch event, we are also hoping to have a second event in another part of the region to widen the opportunities both for press coverage and for members of local societies to attend. Details of the launch events will be announced in the New Year.

Why your society should participate

Taking part in Civic Societies Week 2010 is intended to be fun but with some very positive outcomes for you and your society. We let you choose the event, activity or project that you wish to run – and some societies manage to cram several events into the one week. We want you to try something new if possible – something that you might not usually do, that will help attract interest and attention from your local press and community. Think about how you can reach out to new sections of the community or work with new partners and other organisations so that you forge new links and make new friends. Try to get as many members of your committee or ordinary members involved if you can: discover hidden talents and give people the chance to show what they can do. If all goes well, you could attract new members to join your society, get some useful press coverage, and even win a prize!

Remember to take lots of photographs to use in the press and your newsletters..

The Peter Spawforth Award and Cash Prize

Introduced in 2008 courtesy of sponsorship from Spawforths, the Peter Spawforth Award for Excellence was presented to Skipton in Craven Civic Society in 2008 and to Scarborough and District Civic Society in 2009. In 2010, the trophy could be yours along with a valuable cash prize donated by YHACS.

To be considered for the award and prize, you will need to participate in Civic Societies Week 2010 and deliver a project, event or activity that, in the opinion of the judging panel, scores highly against a range of criteria that will include innovation and impact. To encourage societies to be forward looking, we intend in 2010 to give more weight in the marking process to projects that look to the future – either in terms of modern architecture, design or planning (or possibly restoration and bringing back into use of a derelict building), or doing something that will strengthen the future of the civic society and even the wider movement. This is a wide remit – you are free to interpret it as you see fit.

As ever, the YHACS Committee would welcome volunteers from the wider movement who wish to assist us with the judging process.

What happens next?

We will be saying more about our plans for Civic Societies Week 2010 at our AGM on 30th January. After that, we will be contacting all societies in the region to ask for details of their plans for Civic Societies Week so that we can start to promote them with the press. If you have any questions at all about Civic Societies Week, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Trickett or Peter Cooper (see below for contact details).



Bridlington Civic Society's Exhibition



Selby Civic Society's Fun Day

For more details, contact:

Kevin Trickett
Email: kevintrickett@msn.com
Post: 8 Aberford Road, Wakefield, WF1 4AQ.

Peter Cooper
Email: peter.cooper51@btinternet.com
Post : 9 Dovecot Close, Gristhorpe, Filey,
North Yorkshire, YO14 9PY

What societies have done for Civic Societies Week in the past

We hope that this list might give you some inspiration when thinking about the sort of activity your society might plan for Civic Societies Week 2010.

Guided walks

Exhibitions – local people, buildings of interest, local problems and concerns, society activities

Public debates on topical issues

Meetings with guest speakers

Photographic competitions

Painting competitions

Painting some gates in a public park

Market stalls

Attendance at fetes, galas and fairs

Environmental audits

Research projects

Leaflet drops

Library exhibitions

Meetings with other civic societies to discuss matters of common interest

Treasure hunts

Victorian Days

Encouraging residents to display house numbers on their properties

Blue plaque unveilings

Poster competition for local schools

Opening buildings for the public to look around

Displays of work

Planting flowers

Publishing new leaflets and other literature

Producing a linen shopping bag with the society's logo to sell for £1

Creating a series of articles to appear in the local newspaper

Promoting Heritage Open Days

Presenting awards to a local company for a sensitive development

Hiring a town centre shop to run events, exhibitions, etc

Lunchtime meetings held at the Town Hall

Special village-wide newsletter to promote the society

Joint events with other local groups

Celebrating the success of earlier projects at special events

Quizzes

Conferences

Surveys

Supper walks

Celebrating the achievements of local people from the past

Corporate events for local business people

This list is intended to inspire and encourage - it is not intended to be exhaustive! Feel free to add to the list with new, innovative ideas.