

Yorkshire & Humber Association of Civic Societies

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www.yhacs.org.uk

Voice of the Civic Society Movement in the Region

BULLETIN 2015 - 01 (September)

Our Next Meeting – Pontefract

Just a reminder that our next meeting will be at Pontefract on Saturday, 10th October. Starting at 1 pm as usual, the venue for the meeting will be the [St Giles Centre](#), Market Place, Pontefract. Full details will be issued shortly but do make sure that you have the date in your diary! Our theme for the meeting will be 'design' and we have a number of presentations and guest speakers arranged to get you thinking about what constitutes 'good' design. Come along and take part in the debate!

Pontefract Civic Society has organised a guided walk around the town for 10.30 am on the morning of the meeting for those of you who can get their early.

YHACS Newsletter

Design will also be the focus of our next newsletter. If you have any interesting articles on design that you can email over to David Moss, our newsletter editor, please send them now! (damos43@yahoo.co.uk) There's still time for him to add your article to the next edition if you move quickly. The newsletter is due to be sent out just before the Pontefract meeting on 10th October and, as ever, it works best and provides the most interesting read when it's made up of articles submitted by civic societies from across the region.

Re-Launching Horbury Civic Society

As you may be aware, earlier this year the committee of Horbury Civic Society advised YHACS that they had decided to close the Society. With just four members remaining and no apparent prospect of any new members joining, the Society's committee had reached the end of the road. However, the YHACS committee felt that closure should be avoided if possible and stepped in to run the Society as an interim measure. An AGM was called where the existing committee of the Society stood down and members of the YHACS committee were elected into committee roles. Since then a number of new members have joined the Society and membership now stands at 21 (11 of whom are the YHACS committee, of course). Now we want to see if we can re-launch the Society with the ultimate aim of re-floating it with a new committee made up of Horbury residents.

With this in mind, we have called a public meeting in Horbury for Thursday evening, 1st October, at 7.30 pm. Speakers from YHACS and Civic Voice will set out the background to what a civic society is and to try to create a vision for the future of the Society. We are hopeful that a handful of people might then be willing to work with us to attract new members and to put the Society on a new footing. If we can do this, the YHACS committee will stand down and hand over the running of the Society to the new committee.

The meeting will be held at Primrose Hall, Green Park Avenue, Horbury, WF4 6EG. Doors will open at 7.00 pm. If you are able to come to the meeting to support us, you'd be very welcome!

The Peter Spawforth/YHACS Award

Are you ready for the new-look Award competition? Well, this year, the Rules have changed!

The prizes are the same – the overall winner gets to hold the prestigious trophy for a year and receives a cheque for £200. The runner-up receives £100 and the third prize is of £50.

The essence of the competition is for your organisation to show the judges (the YHACS Committee) that it has made real progress during the year from 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015 to entitle it to be called “Regional Civic Society of the Year”. Examples of this are:

- Running a successful campaign or carrying out a specific project
- Getting to grips with technology by having an up to date website or using Twitter, Facebook or other social media to publicise your activities
- Maximising your publicity with a successful Newsletter or getting special coverage in the local Press about your concerns or campaigns
- Keeping your members and others informed of your activities
- Arranging social activities such as on-message talks and outings
- Increasing and satisfied membership
- Having good and productive relationships with other bodies, including your local council
- Managing your funds properly, including having adequate subscription levels
- Having good management by delegation and sharing of jobs – and an up to date Constitution

You get to decide on what you wish to hang your hat but, as usual, we are asking you for evidence of what it is you have achieved. An entry form is being sent to each of our member Societies and we ask that you return it to us by 7th November. Judging will then take place later in the year with the results being announced at our AGM in Harrogate on Saturday, 30th January 2016.

Civic Voice AGM and Convention

Civic Voice will be holding its annual event in Bristol this year over two days, 23rd and 24th October. It's at the AGM where Civic Voice elects its committee. Details of candidates for election have been posted on the [Civic Voice website](#). All Civic Voice members are encouraged to vote for up to three candidates of their choice. The deadline for getting your votes in is 5 pm on Monday, 19th October. In passing, we might just mention that one of the candidates is from our region – Pete Taylor nominated by none other than Wakefield Civic Society!

**Kevin Trickett,
YHACS Chair**

