

Yorkshire & Humber Association of Civic Societies

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www.yhacs.org.uk

Voice of the Civic Society Movement in the Region

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YHACS Futures Workshop – Friday, 23rd June, Wakefield

As members will be aware, your YHACS committee has been thinking about the future and the challenges and opportunities it will present for the civic society movement.

I can now give you details of a special workshop we are proposing to run in Wakefield on Friday, 23rd June.

Civic societies face two types of existential challenge: keeping going and dealing with the external pressures presented by the change that is happening all around us. These challenges are, of course, interlinked.

How do you recruit members, secure the services of volunteers and raise funds against a backdrop of social and technological change when people are leading busier and busier lifestyles with more demands on their time than ever? How do you make sure that your civic society maintains its relevance and appeal to current and prospective members? How do you find people willing to run your society, willing to take on responsibility for doing the work and willing to assume leadership roles? Meanwhile, how do you keep abreast of changes in society more generally, be they demographic trends, technological advancements or political uncertainties?

Do you see all these challenges as threats or opportunities? Are you optimistic about the future for your society or worried about what's on the horizon? Either way, our workshop should offer something to interest you!

Now, I should stress, that our workshop is not intended to provide you with all the answers! Each society will be faced with its own challenges and will need to respond according to its own resources and within its own context. However, we do hope to be able to provide you with a structured way of thinking about some of these problems that we all face and that you will leave the workshop with some new perspectives to help you decide what to do next.

Perhaps you've already got the future sorted? Maybe you've already worked through what lies ahead and devised your plans accordingly? Well, in that case, why not come along to the workshop and share your ideas with us?

The workshop will be held in the office of Wakefield Civic Society at the Town Hall, Wood Street, Wakefield on Friday, 23rd June. Doors will open at 10.00 am with tea and coffee available and we shall start at 10.30 am (earlier if everyone is ready sooner than that). A buffet lunch will be provided and we aim to finish at around 4 pm.

Please note that this is a workshop and will therefore require your active participation! You will be asked to do some thinking and to put forward ideas and responses to questions. There will also be some pre-workshop activity sent out in advance to those attending to stimulate your thinking and to help you prepare for the day.

Our Facilitator

I am delighted to tell you that we have secured the services of an experienced external facilitator, Barbara Paterson of [Paterson Consultancy](#), to help facilitate our workshop and that Barbara has agreed to run this workshop on a pro bono basis. In view of this and the fact that we can make use of the facilities of Wakefield Civic Society, we will be able to offer places free of charge to our members.

As their website shows, Paterson Consultancy has a strong track record of working with clients nationally and internationally. Barbara is also a member of Wakefield Civic Society so is already familiar with the sort of work that civic societies do.

Booking Arrangements

Places for the workshop are limited and will be offered on a first-come basis. Should there be sufficient demand, we will consider running further workshops but may have to charge admission for these.

If you wish to book a place, please email me (kevintrickett@msn.com) as soon as possible. Please advise me of any special dietary or access needs when you do so. (YHACS committee members do not need to contact me – I already have details of those attending).

Please note that there is no car parking at the Town Hall. However, there is pay and display car parking close by and the Town Hall is conveniently situated for people travelling by train. More details will be sent out to those making a booking.

Our Members' Programme for 2017

I can now give you the dates of our members' meetings for the coming year. Please make a note of these dates in your diary:

As previously advised, our Spring Meeting will be at the Cooper Gallery in Barnsley on Saturday, 29th April and bookings are now being taken (see YHACS Bulletin 2017-02 March for more information). Papers will follow shortly.

Our Summer Meeting will be in the Floral Hall at Hornsea on Saturday, 29th July.

Our Autumn Meeting will be in the banqueting suite at Bradford City Hall on Saturday, 30th September 2017.

And our AGM will be at the Cedar Court Hotel in Harrogate once again on Saturday, 27th January 2018.

Many thanks to Barnsley Civic Trust, Hornsea Civic Society and Bradford Civic Society for their help and generosity in helping to host these events.

**Kevin Trickett,
YHACS Chair**

