

# YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

## MINUTES OF THE YHACS MEETING HELD ON 27th JULY 2019 AT THE TOWN HALL, SELBY

### DELEGATES PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See Appendix 1

#### 1. Welcome from Michael Bryson, Chair of Selby Civic Society

Michael welcomed YHACS members to Selby and the civic society in this, their Society's 50<sup>th</sup> year. The Society was born out of the Selby Festival in 1969 which was arranged to celebrate the Abbey's 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Founders of the festival went on to establish the civic society, which was then a trendsetter in Selby, speaking out for the town's heritage at a time when post-war development was in the ascendancy. The Society has worked hard ever since.

#### 2. Welcome from the Mayor of Selby, Malik Mohd Rofidi.

In welcoming members from the civic society movement across the region, the Mayor wished Selby Civic Society a happy 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. He remarked that in 1969, Yorkshire was a very different place – the film *Kes* had just been released and Leeds United won the football league. There was still, in 2019, plenty of work for the civic society to do championing heritage and developing a sense of pride in the town whilst ensuring that it remains commercially functional. He was sure that SCS would continue to enrich the life in the town in the years to come.

#### 3. Minutes of last meeting held on 23<sup>RD</sup> March 2019 at Sheffield.

These were proposed by Erica Amende of Spen Valley Civic Society, seconded by Alan Nicholson of Grimsby and Cleethorpes Civic Society and approved by the meeting.

#### 3. Matters arising

There were none.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

Kevin reported with great sadness that Alison Drake MBE of Castleford Civic Society and a YHACS executive member had died quite suddenly. She had been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by Wakefield Community Foundation at their annual 'Unsung Heroes' dinner which Kevin had attended and it had been a poignant moment to see Alison on screen in a film about her life and achievements only a few days she had died.

Kevin reported on the successful event to unveil a blue plaque at Market Weighton. The plaque commemorated the life of Hilda Lyon, a pioneering aeronautical engineer who work on streamlining was used in the design of the R101 airship and submarines. The event was well-attended by members of the local community and also members of the Lyon family, some of who had travelled from the USA and Australia to be present. The Mayor of Market Weighton had welcomed everyone to the town and the plaque was unveiled by the Hon. Dame Susan Cunliffe-Lister, DCVO, HM Lord-Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire.

The event had been arranged by YHACS on behalf of Market Weighton Civic Society in the hope of attracting new members to the Society. Although it had been possible to raise funds to cover the cost of the plaque and use of the Town Hall had been allowed free of charge by

the town council, to date no new membership applications had been received so the future of the Society (still managed by a sub-set of the YHACS committee) remained in doubt.

On a brighter note, Kevin told the meeting that Dronfield Civic Society had been so impressed with their attendance at the Sheffield YHACS meeting in April that they had decided to join YHACS, (even though technically just over the county line in Derbyshire!).

Kevin updated the meeting about attempts at Wakefield Civic Society to achieve 'blue plaque parity' for women – ie, to bring the number of plaques for women to match the number for men. Although good progress was being made, there was still some way to go as the Society had around 30 plaques dedicated to men compared with just four to women at the start of the project. In discussion with the manufacturer of the Society's plaques – Leander Architectural, who make plaques for many civic societies, it transpired that quite a few societies had been ordering plaques for women in recent months.

Kevin reported that Sir Roger Scruton had been re-appointed to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission as co-chair and that an interim report had been published by the Commission, available to download from their webpage.

Finally, and on a personal note, Kevin had just written a new guidebook for Wakefield, *Wakefield: City of Sculpture and Public Art* which had just been published by the Wakefield Civic Society. Copies are available from Wakefield Civic Society at £3.50 each (£5 by post).

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Richard Ward reported that YHACS funds stood at £4929.14.

#### **5. Guest Speakers**

David Lewis of Selby Civic Society gave an illustrated history of transport in the Selby area. This was followed by a short video on Transport for the North and a presentation by Stephen Smith on the plans for improving rail transport across the north of England.

Peter Cooper introduced a session on the value of planting trees which was accompanied by short film on how the world might cope with a rising population, currently estimated to be around 7.9 billion but which is forecast to reach around 10 billion by the end of the century.

#### **6. Cake**

We all applauded the Ceremonial Cake Cutting to celebrate Selby Civic Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. (The cake was delicious.)

#### **7. Just a Minute – a round-up of news and views from local societies**

Dick Lidwell of Beverley Civic Society advised that East Riding was the least 'tree-ed' area of Britain and that they were doing something to redress that situation by planting 30,000 trees in conjunction with the Woodland Trust. Beverley will host the April 2020 YHACS meeting, by which time 5 history boards will have been erected and a painting trail created celebrating the internationally -known artists Fred Elwell and his wife Mary Dawson Elwell.

Selby Civic Society membership had increased 20 % in two years.

Stephen Walker of Goole Civic Society drew attention to 'Love Your High Street' which has provided funding to some 13 towns for improvements such as lighting and shop fronts.

Rachel Walker advised that the Waterways Museum at Goole is planned to close and that the civic society had adopted the campaign group trying to keep it open.

Alan Nicholson of Hull reported on revitalising the town trails including the docks and the civic centre. The society will have involvement in the Mayflower 400 celebrations in 2020.

Erica Amende from Spen Valley Civic Society reported involvement with the Jo Cox Community Wood site work including planting a wildflower meadow, stone walling, dealing with fly tipped waste on site and creating paths for wheel chairs. This has involved 1200 hours of volunteer time but has led to recruitment of new members.

Malcolm Sharman of Hull Civic Society reported that the C14<sup>th</sup> and C15<sup>th</sup> defences of Hull are being investigated by Hull City Archaeology Department. It is hoped that a visitor centre will be crated to interpret the findings.

David Siddans of Harrogate Civic Society advised that the wellhead covers in the town are being painted day-glo blue so that they are visible.

Paul Cartwright told the meeting that in the Tour de Yorkshire, Pontefract had won the Best Dressed Town award. This had been a community effort and he saw the civic society as a catalyst for getting people out to volunteer. He was pleased to note that Wakefield Council had appointed a heritage champion for the district.

#### **8. AOB**

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#### **9. Date of next meeting:**

26<sup>th</sup> October 2019, Pontefract Town Hall. Details will follow.

25<sup>th</sup> January 2020, AGM, Cedar Court Hotel, Harrogate

25<sup>th</sup> April 2020, Beverley

25<sup>th</sup> July 2020, Addingham

Autumn 2020 Bids please!

## List of delegates and apologies

	<b>Society/Organisation</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>
1	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Geoff
2	Barnsley Civic Trust	Barnes	Phyllis
3	Beverley Civic Society	Hopkins	Pamela
4	Beverley Civic Society	Lidwell	Richard
5	Beverley Civic Society	la Pensee	Eva
6	Beverley Civic Society	Spedding	Ann
7	Brighouse Civic Trust	Culpan	John
8	Brighouse Civic Trust	Thraves	Robert
9	Doncaster Civic Trust	Anderson	Tina
10	Doncaster Civic Trust	Mellows	Rowena
11	Dronfield Civic Society	Kirk	Mick
12	Dronfield Civic Society	Kirk	Polly
13	Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust (GGIFT)	Bassett	Graeme
14	Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust (GGIFT)	Bassett	Teresa
15	Goole Civic Society	Walker	Rachel
16	Goole Civic Society	Walker	Stephen
17	Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Civic Society	Nicholson	Alan
18	Halifax Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Goodrum	Alan
19	Harrogate Civic Society	Siddans	David
20	Harrogate Civic Society	Siddans	Margaret
21	Hull Civic Society	Sharman	Dot
22	Hull Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Sharman	Malcolm
23	Ilkley Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Kidman	Helen
24	Leeds Civic Trust/YHACS Committee	Hamilton	Martin
25	Leeds Civic Trust	Taylor	Jane
26	Market Weighton Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Leonard	Tony
27	Ossett Civic Trust	Amos	Ruth
28	Ossett Civic Trust	Smith	David
29	Pontefract Civic Society	Cartwright	Christine
30	Pontefract Civic Society/YHACS Committee	Cartwright	Paul
31	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Glen
32	Scarborough Civic Society	Bridgewood	Pete
33	Scarborough Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Cooper	Peter
34	Scarborough Civic Society/Huddersfield Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Ward	Richard
35	Selby Civic Society	Clegg	Marie
36	Selby Civic Society	Dyson	Michael
37	Selby Civic Society	Lambert-Dowell	Angela
38	Selby Civic Society	Moss	David
39	Selby Civic Society	Simpson	David

40	Selby Civic Society	Simpson	Margaret
41	Selby Civic Society	Wildash	Jim
42	Skipton Civic Society	Clark	Shiela
43	Spenn Valley Civic Society	Amende	Erica
44	Wakefield Civic Society	Swift	Kevin
45	Wakefield Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Trickett	Kevin
46	Wakefield Civic Society	Ward	Brian
47	Wakefield Civic Society	Wood	Geoff
	<b>Guest Speakers:</b>		
48	Mayor of Selby, Cllr Malik Mohd Rofidi		
49	Selby Civic Society, David Lewis		
50	Transport for the North, Stephen Smith		

### Apologies Received

1	Addingham Civic Society	Batterbee	Rick
2	Addingham Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Robinson	Jim
3	Beverley Civic Society	English	Barbara
4	Beverley Civic Society	Payne	Jane
5	Brighouse Civic Trust	Thraves	Robert
6	Goole Civic Society	Clarke	John
7	Goole Civic Society/YHACS Committee/Market Weighton Civic Society	Hicks-Clarke	Margaret
8	Harrogate Civic Society	Amaku	Susan
9	Hull Civic Society	Fowler	Cynthia
10	Leeds Civic Trust	Kitching	Lynda
11	NW ACTS	Spibey	Susan
12	Ripon Civic Society	Hughes	Christopher
13	Sheffield Civic Trust	Bedwell	Paul
14	Sheffield Civic Trust	Ingleby	Lilly
15	Wakefield Civic Society	Holwell	Margaret
16	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Pat
17	Wakefield Civic Society	Spawforth	Peter
18	Whitby Civic Society	James	David
19	Whitby Civic Society	Stangoe	Joyce
20	Individual Member	Blackburn	Judith