RIPON CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER JULY - AUGUST 2022

The Platinum Jubilee has passed by, hopefully no longer just a distant memory; a plethora of sporting events are underway; a new Prime Minister to be in post soon; and some extreme hot weather - such is the national context for this newsletter.

Locally, we had a stall on the Market Place for Civic Day in June. The Mayor and Mayoress kindly visited us. We were joined by new faces including visitors who had things to say - which, of course, was the idea.



Photo courtesy of Stray Ferret

We watch the fortunes of the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing with interest. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is now before Parliament which responds to the Planning White Paper from 2020.

Health service provision for Clotherholme is the latest topic being investigated, so we should not be expecting a decision yet.

The Committee has come to a conclusion on the Cathedral's plans. Do read what we think.

Remember the population census last year? Initial results have been published with more to come, as we'll explain.

Heritage Open Days will held 9 - 18 September - please see Full Stop and add to your diary.

So, carry on enduring the summer weather in whatever way suits you best.

Enjoy reading

Christopher Hughes

Were you there?

Civic Day!

A day to say "I care about where I live"

"Ask not what your town can do for you, but what you can do for your town."

Civic Voice President, Griff Rhys Jones









Civic Day 2022 was a smashing success, with Civic Societies from all over England uniting to say, "We are proud of where we live." Seeing your images and stories in Civic Voice has been inspiring with over 150 activities. Remember that National Civic Day is entirely run by volunteers and is not funded by the government, so we are always looking for sponsors!

An unidentified hand found time to send a photo of our stall to Civic Voice which promptly appeared on their website.
Secretary Lynette Barnes greeted our visitors while Chair, Christopher Hughes was deep in conversation with Stephanie Hinchcliffe, Harrogate Borough Council's Market Supervisor.
Nice to use the Ripon Re-Viewed banner again. When did you last visit the website?
Thanks also to Mandy Whitehead, David Hall and Richard Taylor for their time.

Civic Day threw a challenge to the Committee. How do we explain what we do, what matters to us and why people might consider joining?
We'd seen recently a cartoon prepared for an extensive environmental project in the Midlands. So we did one too. A loose thread runs through the Society's achievements, activities and expectations. We might use it again and should keep it up to date.



Who were we in 2021?

The Office for National Statistics - ONS - published the first results of last year's population census. Over the next couple of years or so additional data and specialist topic results will be published.

So far what we know now is information on how many people there were in England and Wales, their broad age groups (in five year categories) and gender. We know also how we lived together - that is the number of separate households. The density of population has been published as well.

This comes at national, regional and local authority levels. Later on we'll see information on parishes and wards (as well as special administrative arrangements). For now we can't see Ripon's data but what we do know is that the population of Harrogate district (including Ripon) in 2021 was 162,000 an increase of 3.1% upon the 2011 total of 157,869. The Yorkshire and Humber growth over the decade was 3.7% (all English regions and Wales growing) but was lower than most regions. The North East grew less at 1.9%.

The national population continued to grow older. This is measured in five year bands. All bands from fifty years and above grew along with bands between five and fourteen and those between twenty-five and thirty-nine. There were more men over the age of eighty with lower growth in the equivalent bands of women compared with 2011.

There were 71,200 households (one or more people living together) in the Harrogate district, growth of 6% from 2011.

Reporting on where people live enables comparison between areas. The population of the London region is the highest at 5,598 residents per square kilometre compared with the national average of 434. The least populated English is the South West which is still more populated than Wales. The Harrogate district population in 2021 was living at 124 people per square kilometre, growing from 121 in 2011.

This data provides absolute knowledge but also the means to compare areas with one another. This is important for education and health service provision as well as housing need. It also gives an important picture of people at work, those not economically active and eventually data on how people travel to work.

More data for Ripon

While we are waiting for the 2021 census information on Ripon we might recall what was reported a decade before when Ripon in 2011 then had a population of 16,700. This is the population of the City of Ripon parish. Several nearby villages including Sharow, Copt Hewick, Littlethorpe and Studley Roger would add to this number.

It's possible to know more. The smallest data collection area is the LSOA - *Lower-level Super Output Area* - of which there are 32844 in England; Ripon has eleven. Useful data is reported using these, not just counting population but describing each area's characteristics.

When evidence describing the city was needed for the Ripon Neighbourhood Plan, the 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation had just been published. A further report was published in 2019. The indices are reported by decile (tenths) with Rank 1 being the most deprived 10% of population and Rank 10 the least.

Does Ripon have deprivation? These reports refer to seven topics: income; employment; education, skills and training; health deprivation and disability; crime; barriers to housing and services; living environment. Two of Ripon's LSOAs were in Rank 4 and three in Rank 10; eight were in rank 6 and below. Specifically, three were in Rank 2 for education, skills and training; three were in Rank 4 and above for health, deprivation and disability; two were in Rank 3 and above for crime. Fourteen LSOAs were in Rank 10 but fourteen were also in Rank 4 and above. The most deprived LSOA was 11634th nationally whilst the least was the 32663rd. Is Ripon deprived? What had changed by 2019? Perhaps a future article beckons.

LSOAs are used for other reports. A couple are worth mentioning.

We can now find out about types of internet user from a report that classifies how people living in different parts of Great Britain interact with the internet. Ripon includes LSOAs with e-Rational Utilitarians, e-Veterans, Digital Seniors and Passive and un-committed users. Which are you? Perhaps another future article?

Topically with the current heat, a report on potential heat hazards has been published using LSOAs to build up a classification of areas at different level of risk. Is Ripon? Yet another article?

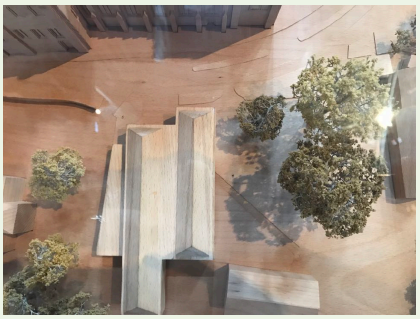
Updates

Ripon Cathedral Renewed

In the previous edition we reported that the Committee will be responding to the new proposal to build on Minster Gardens. After extensive discussions and a breadth of informed opinion the response has been delivered to the Cathedral authorities. We agreed that development on the north side of the Cathedral is preferable and that we support closure of Minster Road.

Minster Gardens is a significant open space for the city and has always been so and we consider that redevelopment of this has not been fully taken into account in the new proposal. Accordingly we strongly encourage re-examination of the stone yard land in Cathedral ownership and production of an alternative building design. The stone yard is where we contend that a significant part of the Cathedral's accommodation requirements needs to be met.

We are not convinced that the proposed building is the necessary and only way to achieve the new proposal for a north side development. Therefore, we have been unable to give it our support.



Possible mineral extraction at Givendale

Recent press coverage reports that documents have been submitted by Newby Gravels for sand and gravel extraction on the River Ure at Great Givendale. This would be opposite the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Ripon City Wetlands reserve. North Yorkshire County Council planners who are responsible for minerals and waste planning matters have advised of 'significant impacts' and the need for mitigation measures.

Cathedral View lodges

An application has been submitted to develop an additional ten lodges on land at the former auction mart site designated in the Ripon Neighbourhood Plan as local green space. We are opposing this.

Levelling-up and Re-generation Bill

In May the Government published the Bill which takes forward its thinking on a range of topics. The accompanying press release quoted "The government's defining mission is to level up the UK; to increase and spread prosperity and opportunity across the UK, and break the link between geography and destiny. The Bill puts the legal foundations needed to deliver this mission in place, so that all parts of the country will be able to share equally in our nation's success."

The Bill includes proposed changes to the Planing system following the 2020 'Planning for the Future" White Paper which attracted over 40,000 responses including from Ripon Civic Society.

The Committee is following the Bill's progress, especially given the Government's current pre-occupations, and will report progress.

Spa Baths



We have been delighted to welcome Helen Tabor's excellent booklet on the Spa Baths subtitled a 'photographic memento' of which the cover is alongside. Not only does this record the architectural splendour of one of the city's finest Edwardian buildings but it is a reminder to all who have known and used the baths over many years. Copies of Helen's book are available through her website helentaborphotography.com

Publication is timely as the baths have recently changed hands and the Society looks forward to working closely with the new owners, Sterne Properties, to help find an appropriate long-term use which respects both the historic fabric and the important setting next to Spa Gardens.

An application for listed building consent has been submitted by the new owners for detail investigation of the baths and removal of modern works. We have supported this.

Full Stop

Comments on the Market Place
Visitors to our Civic Day stall enthused about Ripon's visual character but urged the removal of traffic from the Market Place, providing more space on the north side for café tables and seating and removal of car parking. Is anyone listening? Is this why the Ripon Renewal masterplan has yet to see the light of day?

Heritage Open Days
So far there are eight events in and around Ripon in September:

- the Gazebo, Blossomgate (Friday 9 and Saturday 10, 13.00 - 16.00)
- Chapel of St Mary Magdalen HG4 1HU (Saturday 10, 10.00 - 16-00)
- Masonic Hall, Water Skellgate HG4 1BB (Sunday 11, 14.00 - 16.00)
- the Cathedral central tower HG4 1QT (Monday 12 and Saturday 17, 14.00 and 15.00 pre-booking required)
- St Wilfrid's Catholic Church HG4 2AB (Wednesday 14 daily to Sunday 18, 10.30 - 16.30)
- Clifton Castle tour HG4 4AB (Friday 16, 11.00 and 14.00 pure-booking required)
- The Ruin, Grewelthorpe HG4 3DE (Saturday 17 and Sunday 18, 10.00 -16.00)
- Ripon Grammar School Library HG4 2DG (Sunday 18, 12.00 -16.00)

for more information see www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Harrogate Railway Station
Harrogate Civic Society is holding a free exhibition on 30 and 31 July to celebrate 160 years of Harrogate Station. This will be held at the station 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Would that Ripon had a station to celebrate - but, of course, we would say that.

September talk confirmed
Mark Newman returns to speak to us on Thursday 1 September at 7.30 about *Studley Hall - Biography of a Lost Mansion*. We can expect to hear his findings and thoughts on one of the more enigmatic elements of the estate. We hear that a book is in the offing. The talk will be given at the Workhouse.

Are you a Committee candidate?
The Committee is already making arrangements for the Annual General Meeting on 3 November. Is this the moment when you step forward to join the committee? Now is as good a time as any!