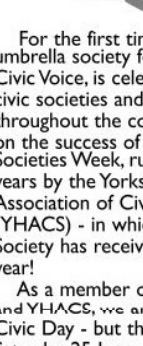




RIPON CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2011



QUIRKY RIPON

A photo competition for young people

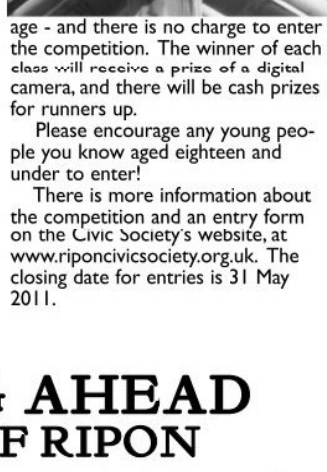
Calling all young people! Here's a chance to win a digital camera, in a new competition run by Ripon Civic Society to mark national Civic Day in June.

For the first time the national umbrella society for Civic Societies, Civic Voice, is celebrating the work of civic societies and civic trusts throughout the country. It is building on the success of the former Civic Societies Week, run for the last three years by the Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies (YHACS) - in which Ripon Civic Society has received awards each year!

As a member of both Civic Voice and YHACS, we are keen to support Civic Day - but the date chosen is Saturday 25 June. As this is also Armed Forces Day, organising our own event on the Market Square - our first idea - is not possible.

We have decided instead to hold a photographic competition for schools, called 'Quirky Ripon'. We're looking for photographs to illustrate the theme of Ripon's quirkiness. They can be pictures of anything - odd details of buildings, unusual happenings or events, nature, people - that capture something about Ripon and the surrounding area.

There are two categories - for children of Primary and Secondary

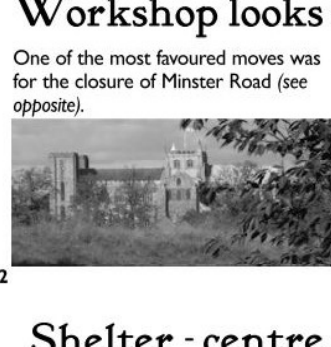


age - and there is no charge to enter the competition. The winner of each class will receive a prize of a digital camera, and there will be cash prizes for runners up.

Please encourage any young people you know aged eighteen and under to enter!

There is more information about the competition and an entry form on the Civic Society's website, at www.riponcivicsociety.org.uk. The closing date for entries is 31 May 2011.

PLANNING AHEAD IN AND OUT OF RIPON



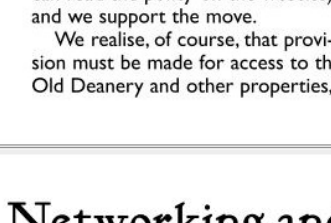
You will probably know by now that Morrison's supermarket is hoping to build a new store adjacent to its current building on Harrogate Road. The old store would become a DIY store, and there would also be a hotel on the site, as well as some business or industrial units.

The development would mean that there would be a new access road from the bypass, with a new roundabout.

The land is scheduled by Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) for business and employment use, not for retail - a matter that the council will have to consider. There are other hurdles to be overcome before a decision can be made.

Workshop looks at Cathedral

One of the most favoured moves was for the closure of Minster Road (see opposite).



Several members of the Civic Society's committee took part in a day's workshop looking how the cathedral can increase its number of visitors and its income by better using the buildings and land around the cathedral itself.

A number of interesting ideas were put forward, and will be taken to the cathedral's governing body, the Chapter, for further consideration.

There has also been some ill-informed speculation about sums of money being extracted from Morrison's; planning permission will never be granted on payment of money, but in accordance with the regulations and the needs of the community for the development.

Our planning sub-committee is taking a good look at the proposed new Morrison's development. At the time of writing there is an environmental assessment; a formal planning application has yet to be made.

Some of the residents of our city's rural hinterland have welcomed Ripon Civic Society's campaign of its boundaries.

We wrote to local parish councils explaining our new boundaries, and we have received some replies, welcoming our changes.

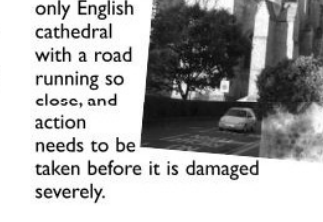
As the last newsletter explained, the Society will take a cautious approach if it is asked to intervene in planning concerns in the wider Ripon area; we will look at each case on its merits and decide if our comments would be helpful.

restoration was a great achievement, but unfortunately implied that the shelter was in a bad condition when it was transferred from Ripon Civic Society to the City Council in 1999.

Ripon Civic Society's stout rebuttal of the misleading claim caused some upset. It's very unfortunate that the shelter was used in an attempt to make political gain.

The Society also pointed out that the cost of more than £8000 for the restoration would have been much less had the council regularly maintained the shelter - and that Harrogate Borough Council only provided a 50 per cent grant towards the cost because the Society successfully applied to English Heritage to have it made a listed building - a move that was bitterly opposed at the time by Ripon City Council members!

but we believe that a solution should be possible to any problems. Ripon's is the only English cathedral with a road running so close, and action needs to be taken before it is damaged severely.



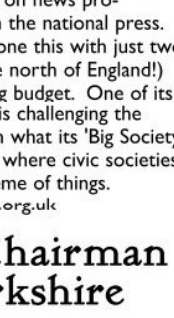
Griff Rhys Jones, President of the organisation (above, with RCS Chairman David Winpenny), spoke enthusiastically to civic society members from across the north of England, saying, 'We all have something we love about where we live. There are so many ways to show we care and play our part. It is easy to get involved and learn something new about our neighbourhood.'

Many ideas and concerns were discussed during the day and David Winpenny led a workshop on 'communication', which looked at how to deal with the media and to use a website and e-mail to communicate with members.

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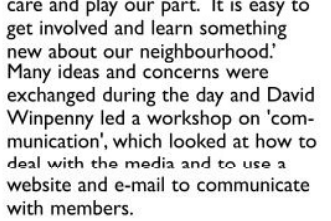
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www.yhacs.org.uk



Networking and communicating

Our parent organisation, Civic Voice, held a 'Spring Network North' event in Manchester in March.



It is a year since Civic Voice was set up in April 2010, following the demise of the Civic Trust. In these twelve months it has made a considerable impact with Government ministers and other national politicians, and has aired its views on Radio 4's 'You and Yours', on news programmes and in the national press.

And it has done this with just two staff (one in the north of England!) and a shoestring budget. One of its main concerns is challenging the Government on what its 'Big Society' is all about and where civic societies fit in to its scheme of things.

www.civicvoice.org.uk

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On Saturday 25 June we have a visit to Hexham, where members of our Civic Society will show us round the Abbey (above) and the town. Hexham Abbey has close links with St Wilfrid, of course - including a crypt that, like Ripon's, dates from his time.



Many of Bewick's wood engravings are of the countryside around the cottage and of local life.

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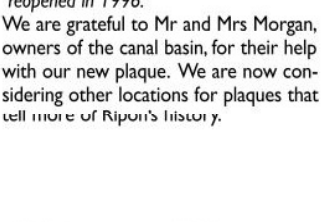
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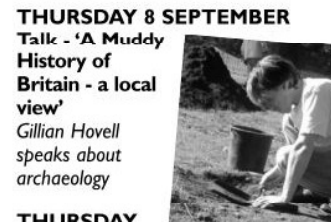
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