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COMMUNITY / BUSINESS / CULTURE

Photo by Michael Hirst

ISSUE 3 | APR 2019

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Community News

Nifty at Fifty

Local florist, Michelle Grainger, is celebrating her 50th in style, with plans to undertake 50 fundraising challenges to raise £30,000 for the Prince of Wales Hospice. Both Michelle and her sister Karen know from personal experience how invaluable the hospice is to patients with life-limiting illnesses and have previously held raffles, car boot sales, the annual Pont Dance and Festive Florals events to raise funds.

Her ambitious schedule of events, challenges and dares range from braving the fastest zip wire in the world to shaving her head and taking on 25 punishing obstacles, as part of Total Warrior 2019. In between her jam-packed schedule, £5 tea cup arrangements will continue to be on sale at Michelle's Flowers, Baghill Lane and raffle donations will be gladly welcomed.

To find out more about Michelle's fundraising mission, visit her Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/michellefifty.

Tour de Yorkshire Crafts

Pontefract Library, in association with Pontefract Civic Society, invite residents to help decorate the town to celebrate the Tour de Yorkshire.

Riders will be passing through the town on Friday 3 May during stage two of the event from Barnsley to Bedale. The world's top female riders will come through the town in the morning with the men following in the afternoon.

Craft workshops to create bunting and decorations will be held every Wednesday in Pontefract Library between 1:30pm and 3:30pm from 13 March to 1 May.

All materials and equipment will be provided, but donations will be gratefully received.

We love to hear from groups, organisations and individuals about what's happening locally. Include a photo if you can. Email your stories to **news@pomfretian.co.uk**

Pontefract in Bloom Seeking Sponsors

Pontefract in Bloom are currently seeking sponsorships from local businesses, community groups, individuals and families. for 2019 floral displays.

Sponsorship opportunites include hanging baskets for business premises, 9 square planters and 13 3-tier planters. Planters will be fully planted for the summer in late May/early June and replanted in October for winter and spring, ensuring year-round. colour. Sponsors' names will be displayed on the planters and publicised on social media. Prices include planting, maintenance, watering services and sponsor plaque for the whole year.

For more information, please contact pontefractinbloom@gmail.com or text 07876234054.

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Yorkshire Roses Women's Institute Comes to Carleton

by Autumn Hall

With Spring on its way, it's time to shake off those winter doldrums, get out and about, make new friends and do something different! This is great timing as a new WI has formed in Carleton, Yorkshire Roses WI.

In an effort to merge traditional WI interests and pursuits with a modern approach and fun, educational and engaging activities we will look to our members for inspiration. With plans for a very active WI in which all members are involved in the programme planning and execution. Yorkshire Roses will strive to give back to the community, pair with various groups in the area to tackle issues close to home and support the resolutions of the National Federation of WIs. We'll be hosting engaging speakers, doing fun (but easy!) crafts, going on day trips, participating in craft fairs and fundraising, helping to beautify Pontefract, reaching out to a local care home, holding competitions as well as forwarding the WIs initiatives in tackling plastic waste, loneliness among the elderly and period poverty – and, of course, eating cake!

From crafting to participating in the community to campaigning for various causes to enjoying entertaining and educational speakers and everything in between, the WI has something for every woman! On a regional and national level, there are numerous classes, workshops and events you can participate in as well as help advocate for change on issues that affect us all as women, throughout the country and the planet.

Visitors and new members are always welcome! We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at The Grange, Carleton Community Centre, Carleton Road. A visitor's fee of £5 includes tea/coffee and cake and a raffle ticket.

For more information, please email: yorkshireroseswi@gmail.com or ring: 07483 254253. You can also visit the WI at www.thewi.org.uk for more information about the organisation as a whole, our resolutions for this year and the causes we support to increase public awareness and policy change in the UK.

KLH Events

Karen Haddock and Lynne Hartley, two local crafters, remember with a fondness how Pontefract Town Hall used to be a regular venue for craft fairs. With a desire to put something back into their community, the pair have established a new business venture, KLH Events, in order to bring that buzzing atmosphere back for the next generation to enjoy as much as they did.

Lynne, a self-taught costume jewellery maker, and Karen, a keen baker, have been attending craft fairs as stall holders together for a number of years. However, their talents as events organisers were noticed in 2016, when they were asked to organise a Christmas fair for the British Polio Fellowship. The event proved a huge success and they spent the following year doing further research at various craft events, drawing from the positive and negative experiences and researching possible venues.

"We like to think we are a team with a difference, our focus is on what we can bring to the community, rather than taking from it. When we were first developing our company, we decided that the choice of location was important. We chose Pontefract because it has a fantastic history and heritage and, as locals, we know that the rejuvenation of the town centre is paramount and anything we can do to help has to be beneficial."

This focus on supporting the local community has meant that they have tried to book stallholders from the local area and hope to support local crafters, small businesses and charities, with at least one stall being given to a charity free of charge as an opportunity to fundraise or raise awareness of their organisation.

By drawing on their own experiences and reflecting on past events, their hope is to ensure that every fair is a pleasant experience for stallholders and visitors alike. With this in mind, they made the decision to have no duplicate ranges on stalls, and have trawled social media sites looking for variety.

"Our selection includes a glass painter, handcrafted bath products, a chocolatier, vintage homewares, beauty products, handcrafted handbags, a wood turner, a metal artist, a watercolour artist, a baker, handcrafted jewellery, and children's books to name a few!"

KLH Events have four upcoming events organised at Pontefract Town Hall (30 March, 8 June, 26 October, and 30 November) and an additional four events to be held at the Thornycroft Centre (14 April, 14 July, 22 September and 8 December). Their hope is to bring them back as a monthly event and have already been approached by other venues!

A Pontefract Information Pack will be handed out at the above events free of charge and KLH Events welcome any local businesses who wish to include their literature. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/klhevents.

Pontefract Civic Society

by Paul Cartwright

Pontefract's first blue plaque to a woman was recently unveiled in the Nelson Room at Pontefract Town Hall, in front of fifty specially invited guests from project partners, like-minded local organisations, and the Moxon Society.

Dream Time Creative, the arts company behind the Forgotten Women of Wakefield project, led the research in celebration of the pioneering cookbook, 'English Housewifry', written by Elizabeth Moxon. It was first published in 1741 and sold from her home on Finkle Street.

This project was funded by Pontefract Museum to deliver research and community engagement which enabled local people to explore the story through poetry, art, prose and storytelling. The story that is the life of Elizabeth Moxon (nee Hestleton) can be traced back to 1640, when her grandfather first rented a burgage plot off Finkle Street from the De Lacy family.

Pontefract Civic Society, who hosted the event and arranged for the supply of the blue plaque, welcomed those present and then handed the event over to Sarah Cobham, CEO of Dream Time Creative, who told the audience about her company, the background to the wider project, and a little of the research to identify who the real Elizabeth Moxon was, from several strands of the Moxon family. This research was also

supplemented by Dave Smith, Chair of Pontefract & District Family History Society and Philip Henfrey, our Heritage Group Coordinator.

The audience were treated to a performance commissioned by Dream Time Creative of 'Lemon Drops'. This short play by Amy Charles was set in Elizabeth Moxon's kitchen, where she is introduced to the printer of the first edition, James Lister, of the Leeds Mercury.

We heard a few words on the project from Rev Don Moxon of the Moxon Society, then Cllr Jacquie Speight spoke, followed by Yvette Cooper MP, who then unveiled the blue plaque. After refreshments, we heard a short poem from Amy Charles (again playing Elizabeth Moxon). Photographs and a short video clip were taken of this very special event, which was one to remember.

The blue plaque will ultimately be installed on the wall of Bartons café on Finkle Street, and we hope that other blue plaques celebrating Pomfretians, both women and men, will follow.

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Pontefract & District Family History Society

by Eric A Jackson

Pontefract and District Family History Society was founded in 1997 and whether you are a beginner, or a seasoned family historian who has an interest in our area, we are here to help you pursue this fascinating hobby.

We usually have a guest speaker at our meetings on subjects of interest to family historians and visitors are always welcome for a small fee.

We maintain an extensive database of births, marriages and burials in our area, dating from 1539 to 1937 which cover over ninety parishes from Grimethorpe in the south to Barkston Ash in the north; from Altofts in the west to Barlow in the east.

Members of our Society are very active transcribers and we have upwards of 530 publications of births, marriages, burials; the 1841 and 1851 census indices; Land Tax returns from 1781 to 1825 and monumental inscriptions, many of which are unavailable elsewhere, and are available for sale at meetings, by post or via our website, www.pontefractfhs.org.uk.

Our Database and Publications Manager holds all our transcripts in a central database and can do surname searches for a small fee, see our website for details.

We also maintain an active Facebook page which gives up-to-date information on all family history related matters.

Individual membership is £10 per annum, family membership is £13 and for those overseas it is £15. Members get a quarterly journal, The Bridge, and free access to all society meetings and activities.

We attend various Family History and other Fairs throughout the District so please call in at our stall and have a chat, we are a very friendly group and are always happy to help with any queries.

We meet at Micklegate Methodist Church, Pontefract at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month, except for August and December.

To contact us please email secretary@pontefractfhs.org.uk, find us on Facebook or visit our website www.pontefractfhs.org.uk.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG DOWN ON THE FARM

Easter is just around the corner & our lambs are having plenty of fun, causing mischief. The newest additions will be with us soon, as well as the little chicks who you can meet at our Easter Festival on the 14th-18th April.

On Easter Sunday, the Priory Rose Vintage Group will be bringing the National Vintage Tractor Road Run to us for a few hours from 11am, hopefully with an appearance from the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. All money raised will be going to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance & we expect over 450+ tractors.

Our Pumpkin Festival is starting to take shape *(it's only April I know)*, we've ordered the seeds, 37 different varieties of pumpkin, so come October our fields will have more colours than a rainbow!

The Guild of Fine Food Shop of the Year Awards saw us shortlisted for the coveted Farm Shop of the Year. We've missed out on this award over the past few years but this time, much to our surprise, WE WON!

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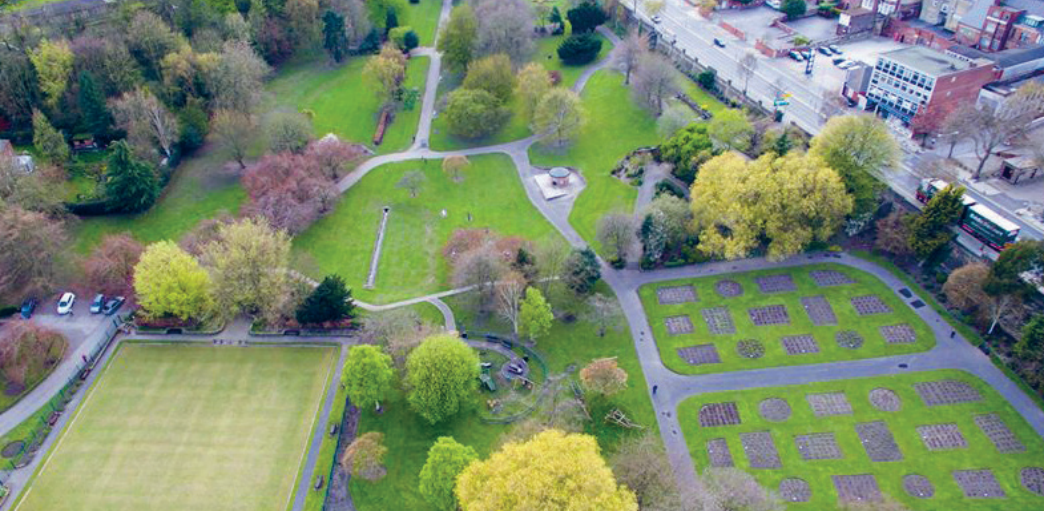

Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens

by Colin White

The Friarwood Valley gains its name from the Dominican Friary of St Richard (black friars) which occupied what is now the Pontefract General Infirmary demolition site and the Valley Gardens from 1256 until the Reformation in 1539. After the Dissolution the site was used as a cemetery until orchards were planted in the 18th century. Friarwood Valley Gardens became a municipal park in 1950 when the then Pontefract Borough Council acquired the land which had previously been occupied by several private gardening plots growing liquorice, rhubarb and fruit trees. R W Grubb, the Parks and Cemeteries Superintendent, created an exceptional green oasis in the centre of Pontefract using the natural valley to advantage in his design. The official opening was in May 1951 to coincide with the Festival of Britain. Many older Pomfretians have fond memories of the Valley Gardens in the 1950s and 60s with its profusion of flower beds, rose garden, a winding stream interspersed with lily ponds, an open air theatre, a paddling pool and aviary. By the turn of the Millenium the Valley Gardens had suffered from neglect in the previous two decades: most of the flower beds had been grassed over, the stream had been culverted, the aviary dismantled, the outdoor stage removed and the paddling pool disused (eventually removed in 2012). Even so, in 2001 Friarwood Valley Gardens was given a Grade II listing by English Heritage (now Historic England) in the Parks and Gardens Heritage Category (List Entry Number 1001514).

Community concern about the degraded state of the Valley Gardens led to the setting up of Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens in May 2012; a voluntary community group

with the aim of preserving and restoring the Valley Gardens through voluntary work, fund raising, organising events and grant applications. These are the main achievements of the last seven years:

- Restored the Sensory Garden (originally created in 1960 by the Mayor of Pontefract)
- Completely replanted the 31 beds of the Rose Garden
- Installed the children's playground with grants from WREN and Wakefield Council
- Installed 22 new benches and 4 picnic tables
- Restored the outdoor stage with a Tesco "Bags of Help" grant
- Brought back regular Valley Gardens events including the Liquorice Festival, Yorkshire Day, Friarwood Festival and Lantern Festival.
- Created the Giant Pinhole Camera from the restored former aviary building
- Continuing maintenance of the gardens with voluntary gardening.

Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens acknowledge the help of Wakefield Council and Wakefield District Housing with grants, the support of Pontefract's councillors and individual donations from the community.

The Friends group is small with just over 40 members, but less than a dozen active volunteers. More volunteers are always welcome to help with our regular gardening sessions and events; there is still much more to do to restore Pontefract's green gem.

To keep in touch or get involved follow us on Facebook (FriendsOfFriarwoodValleyGardens), Twitter (@ponte_valley) and Instagram. Go to our website for much more information about the Valley Gardens and the Friends group: www.friendsfriarwoodvalleygardens.btck.co.uk.

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Friends of Pease Park

by Pete Tough

The area of land between Churchbalk Lane, Grove Road and Harewood Avenue now know as Pease Park was formerly owned by Mr Pease and Mr Lofthouse.

It was purchased by Pontefract Borough Council (now Wakefield Metropolitan District Council) in 1956.

In 2006, a survey was carried out by members of the South Pontefract Community Partnership (later to be know as Pontefract Community Partnership) which showed that local residents wanted better use of green spaces in the community.

It was decided by the Partnership that "Peaser's field", being the largest green space in the area, should be developed.

Permission was given by WMDC for the project and a steering group was formed from local residents and members of the Partnership. This group was dissolved due to a delay of 18 months because of works by the Water Authority installing a drainage system to prevent flooding in the nearby streets and homes. However, a new steering group was formed from local residents and members of the Partnership shortly after the land had recovered.

Funding was applied for and received. Regular meetings were held to move the project forward until, in 2009, a new play area was installed.

The official opening of the play area, organized in 2009, was well attended by local residents and children despite the poor weather.

The next stage was to renew the footpaths, provide seating, plant some trees and create a meadow area over and around the position of the underground flood tanks.

This work was completed in December of 2009.

In 2010, Friends of Pease Park was formed from the steering group of Pontefract Community Partnership and continues to work with interested parties on behalf of local residents.

These parties include Streetscene (WMDC dept for greenspaces), Councillors, WDH, Neighbourhood Police Teams and local residents.

The aims of Friends of Pease Park are to further develop, promote, enhance and protect Pease Park as a place of recreation and enjoyment for all the local community.

We also gather input from local people and representative groups so that the park may best serve the local community.

Membership is open to anyone who shares the aims of the group.

For details of how to get involved in the care of Pease Park, email peasepark@hotmail.co.uk.

Pontefract junior parkrun

by Christopher

Pontefract junior parkrun is a completely free event that is held every Sunday morning in Pontefract Park at 9am and is for children aged 4 -14 years old. Children can run/walk/skip on their own as the course is fully marshalled but parents/guardians/siblings are welcome to join in.

Pontefract junior parkrun joined the parkrun family on Saturday 10th June 2018 after relocating from Nostell Priory.

26 children completed the 2k course that day, and since then our numbers have steadily increased, peaking at a wonderful 194.

We start on the inner track of the racecourse near the tower and head down the track towards the turnaround point at 1km before heading back up the 'little' hill to the finish and our mascot, Ponte rabbit.

Please register for your unique parkrun barcode at www.parkrun.org.uk/register as you'll need this at the finish to get a time.

More information about Pontefract junior parkrun can be found at http://www.parkrun.org.uk/pontefract-juniors/ or email us at pontefractjuniors@parkrun.com

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

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The Pontefract & District Archaeological Society

by Eric Houlder

Back in 1956, the nation's favourite TV show was an archaeological quiz in which museums challenged celebrities to identify mystery objects from their collections. Top of the celebrities was Yorkshire's own Sir Mortimer Wheeler, who had grown up in Shipley and had attended Bradford Grammar School. So popular was Animal? Vegetable? Mineral?, that a number of spin-off programmes were made. These produced a huge increase in the number of people studying archaeology, both at university and in evening classes.

Pontefract was just one of the locations of such a class, tutored by Leeds University and WEA lecturer C Vincent Bellamy. As the second year of the class progressed, a number of the students met together in the churchyard of All Saints and determined to form a society independent of the university and the WEA. An inaugural meeting was called in the parish hall at the foot of Baghill, and The Pontefract & District Archaeological Society was founded, initially with about thirty members.

Society activities included excavation (originally at St John's Priory under Vince Bellamy), building surveys, fieldwork, local historical research, and urban recording. A popular programme of lectures was begun, and from the beginning, national and regional experts were invited to appear. As time

went by, the new society was eventually able to mount excavations independent of Vince Bellamy, like a brief look at St Richard's Friary under the newly proposed hospital in 1963.

A lucky addition to the early membership was Kenneth Wilson, of the Abbey House Museum at Kirkstall. Ken had dug with the best, whilst his wife, Peggy (see www.trowelblazers.com) had dug as a supervisor with Wheeler himself. With training and advice from people like this a number of younger society members became sought after as supervisors by leading national archaeologists. Today, that heritage of excavation and recording skill is still evident, and still in demand.

Today, PontArc is the only group devoted to the identification, study, recording, and publication of the district's past traces. The lecture programme extends from September until April, and still includes national figures. Excavations, surveys, and fieldwork are still undertaken, and still give us new insights into Pontefract's rich history. Our latest book is a survey of Darrington Windmill by Society Secretary Robert McNaught. It is illustrated in full colour and includes much historical as well as architectural and technological detail. At least two other books are planned for the near future.

We usually meet on the third Friday of the month in the Central Methodist Church hall, Newgate, between September and April, though national holidays sometimes necessitate changes. Membership is open to all on payment of an annual subscription. PontArc recognises that its lecture programme often attracts people who are not interested in annual membership, so lectures are open to everyone on a payment of £3 per meeting. PontArc's website: www.pontarc.org.uk has all our publications, our programme, full details of membership, and many other interesting facts.

The Link Between Pontefract and Trafalgar Square

by Thomas Smith

Within the historic rooms of Pontefract's 18th century Town Hall hangs a very special work of art that links Pontefract with Nelson's Column in London's Trafalgar Square. Those of you who are familiar with the Town Hall's interior might have guessed it – it's the plaster-cast relief of the Death of Nelson at Trafalgar, which is installed in the charming (and aptly named) Nelson Room.

The plaster-cast relief originally served as the mold upon which the final bronze relief, found on the pedestal of Nelson's Column, was cast. Of course, the bronze relief (and its plaster-cast forbearer) are now part of one of our country's most famous and recognisable monuments.

Nelson's Column in London's Trafalgar Square, stands 169ft 3in tall when measured from the base of the pedestal to the tip of Nelson's hat. The statue of Nelson that stands atop the column and gazes

down upon Whitehall is itself 18ft tall. The monument was erected in 1843 to commemorate Horatio Nelson, Vice-Admiral of the British Royal Navy, who died aboard the HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21st October 1805, during the Napoleonic Wars. The battle (and Nelson himself) was key to ending Napoleon's campaign to invade England, dealing a decisive defeat to the combined Franco-Spanish fleets. The confrontation took place in the Atlantic Ocean, west of the Cape of Trafalgar, just off the south-west coast of mainland Spain. At the end of the battle, the combined Franco-Spanish forces lost 22 of 33 ships whilst the British forces lost none.

During the fighting, a bullet from a French Musketeer, firing from 50ft away, pierced Nelson's left shoulder and passed through his spine and several vertebrae, lodging a few inches below his right shoulder blade. Knowing that he had been dealt a fatal blow, Nelson issued his final battle commands, professed his love for his mistress Emma and uttered the now famous last words, "God and my country". He died three to four hours after the Frenchman's musket shot. At the return of Nelson's body to England, a full state funeral was conducted and his body buried in St Paul's Cathedral, London.

The relief Death of Nelson at Trafalgar was designed by Irish sculptor John Edward Carew (c. 1785 – 1868) and installed upon the Whitehall-facing side of the pedestal of Nelson's Column in 1849. Carew's was the first of four bronze reliefs (each 18ft2) to be mounted upon the monument, each commemorating famous battles of the Napoleonic Wars, including The Battle of Copenhagen, The Battle of the Nile, and The Battle of Cape St Vincent. Interestingly, the bronze used for the reliefs was in fact cast from captured French artillery cannons. Now, if that's not rubbing your enemy's nose in it, I don't know what is.

Now, you would be right to ask just how this work of art ended up in Pontefract's Town Hall. The plaster-cast of the Death of Nelson was in fact gifted by Benjamin Oliveria, who was an MP for Pontefract from 1852 through to 1857. As an influential Victorian MP, Oliveria was a close friend of the sculptor Carew and offered the piece as a gift to the Corporation of Pontefract.

So in conclusion, if you ever find yourself in London and walking across Trafalgar Square, you can take heart and know that you are not too far from home when you set your eyes upon the Death of Nelson at Trafalgar, as you will be reminded that the very same work (albeit in plaster-casting) hangs in Pontefract's Town Hall and has done so for well over a century and a half.

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www.pontefractheritagegroup.org.uk

The Day Cliff Richard Came to Town

by Roger Ellis

Castleford's boast is that Buffalo Bill, with his Wild West Circus, came to town in 1904; a story passed down from grandparents to grandchildren, many of whom in the 1960's revelled in various TV western series. Well, on January 20th 1959, Cliff Richard and The Drifters, later to be re-named The Shadows, appeared on stage at the Crescent Cinema. From that moment life for Pontefract's blossoming teenagers would not be the same again. Unfortunately, legend has it that Cliff vowed he would never appear in the town again because, during a press photo shoot in the Valley Gardens, he was mobbed and chased by screaming fans, mainly teenage girls, eager for his autograph or a quick cuddle.

The period was, as we know, a time of great musical revival and composition, one driven by a teenage love of popular rock 'n' roll music. During those heady days of the late 1950's and early 60's, the Crescent stage was graced with stars of the time, many of whom remain household names to this day. Groups like The John Barry Seven (John Barry being York's famous son who was to become the composer of many big Hollywood film scores such as the James Bond theme, Dances with Wolves, Born Free Out of Africa to name but a few), Marty Wilde and the red haired Wee Willy Harris, The Bachelors and a young unknown comedian called Jimmy Tarbuck.

Adding fuel to all of this hysteria was the record stand in the Pontefract Market Hall where, providing one had some money to spare, the latest hits could be bought for 5/- or, for those with instrumental skills, the guitar and piano sheet music score for 2/-. Mrs. Jay's small family run booth, despite its size, carried almost every record and LP request available and if not, it could easily be ordered. This popular gathering place on Saturday afternoon was the magnet for the town's vibrant youth fraternity. Here the sound of the latest top ten could be heard reverberating around the Market Hall, the surrounding area itself impassable due to the volume of those wanting to listen. There would be an almost continuous call to play again the number one record of that week. And if money was short it could be reserved for the following week, with no deposit.

Such was the town life in Pontefract.

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Take the opportunity to explore our Nursery, Junior School, Senior School and Sixth Form and find out how Ackworth School has maintained its passion for teaching and learning for over 230 years.

Tuesday 7th May 2019

9:50am - 1:00pm

Please register your interest by contacting admissions@ackworthschool.com

What's On?

KLH Events Spring Fair

30 March, 10am - 4pm
Pontefract Town Hall

We have over 30 small businesses with a variety of products, including metal art, woodturning, knits, cards, vintage, clothing, bath bombs, fragrances, holistic therapies, baked goods, ceramics and many, many more.

Carleton and District Ladies Group

1 April, 7pm for 7:30pm
The Rugby Club, Carleton

Debbie Harrod will be giving a demonstration of how to do spring floral arrangements. Members £1 and visitors £2.

Ian Clayton in conversation with CP Lee

3 April, 7:30pm - 10pm
Tap & Barrel, Pontefract

Join Ian Clayton in the intimate theatre setting at the Tap & Barrel, Pontefract for an interview with writer, broadcaster, lecturer and performer, CP Lee.
Tickets now available.

Dinner With Mir and ISS Cosmonaut Gennady Padalka

5 April, 6pm - 10:30pm
Wentbridge House Hotel

Hosted by Space Lectures, a not for profit organisation. All profits donated to UNICEF. Tickets cost £100, including one signed item. Contact Ken Willoughby on 01977 795535.

"A Walk In Space" - A Lecture by Cosmonaut Gennady Padalka

6 April, 2:30pm - 3:45pm
Carleton Community High School

Tickets cost £30, including one signed item. Contact Ken Willoughby on 01977 795535.

Yorkshire Roses WI

8 April, 7pm
Carleton Community Centre

Yorkshire Roses WI welcomes Paul Whittaker, OBE, who will be presenting "Music to Your Ears". £5 visitors fee includes tea/coffee and cake and a raffle ticket. For more information, please email: yorkshireroses WI@gmail.com or ring: 07483 254253.

Talk: "The Kingdom of Alms"

9 April, 7pm
Pontefract Town Hall

Eric Jackson, presents a talk on Almshouses in Pontefract and explains why the town came to be known as the "Kingdom of Alms". Pontefract Civic Society members £2, non members £4, including light refreshments.

Sweet Characters

10 April, 11am - 3pm
Pontefract Museum

Taste some of the sweets that Pontefract and the local area are famous for and create a character inspired by the sweets! Drop-in activity, all ages welcome.

More details on all the events listed below can be found on our website.
If you would like to have your event included on this page, please send details to **events@pomfretian.co.uk**

Have a Dabble - Pisanki Eggs

11 April, 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Pontefract Castle

The custom of decorating eggs is an ancient symbol of life and rebirth. Decorate beautiful eggs for Easter using the Polish technique of Pisanki, involving melted wax and dyes. Adults 16+. Tickets £6.

The Jam - All Mod Cons. A CAT Club presentation

11 April, 7:30pm - 10pm
Tap & Barrel, Pontefract

Presented by acclaimed poet, songwriter and performance artist, Heath Common. Tickets now available..

Community Showcase

13 April, 10am - 3pm
Pontefract Town Hall

As part of their 50th Anniversary celebrations, Pontefract Civic Society are hosting a showcase event for other local organisations, community groups and charities. Find out about what's happening locally and how you can get involved.

KLH Events Easter Fair

14 April, 12pm - 5pm
The Thornycroft Centre

We have over 30 small businesses with a variety of products, including metal art, woodturning, knits, cards, vintage, clothing, bath bombs, fragrances, holistic therapies, baked goods, ceramics and many, many more.

Easter Animals

17 April, 10am - 3pm
Pontefract Museum

Search for images of animals on the old objects around Pontefract Museum and make a fun Easter animal craft to keep! Drop-in activity, all ages welcome.

Easter Floristry Workshop

18 April, 6:30pm - 11:30pm
Farmer Copleys

Join us to create your very own beautiful hand tied bouquet with help from the lovely Stephanie from Pickerings Florists.
£35 per person.

Illumination Workshop with Toni Watts

20 April, 10pm - 4pm
Pontefract Castle

Join us for a day of illumination with one of the few remaining professional gold leaf illuminators in the UK, Toni Watts. Adults 16+. Tickets £24.

Pontefract Castle and the Shadow King Henry VI

27 April, 2pm - 3:30pm
Pontefract Castle

A talk from Lauren Johnson, historian and author, on her latest book with particular focus on the events surrounding Henry VI and Pontefract Castle during the battle of Wakefield.

Wedding Fayre

28 April, 11am - 3pm
Rogerthorpe Manor Hotel

Our wedding fayres hold approx 50 suppliers from the wedding industry from photographers, to gym memberships. Free to attend.

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