

Annual General
Meeting //
Executive Reports
2018



Agenda

To commence at 7pm on Tuesday 15 May 2018 in the Forster Suite, at the Midland Hotel, Bradford.

7.00pm Welcome and apologies

7.05pm Guest speaker – Allan Booth of Bradford Property Forum to offer us an architect's view on heritage buildings

7.30pm Commencement of 2018 AGM business

- i. Minutes of the last AGM (attached) and matters arising**
- ii. 2017/18 Officer reports, received from Chair, Treasurer and Membership Secretary (attached in reports pack)**
- iii. Election of 2018/19 officers**

Nominations received:

Chair Si Cunningham

Vice Chair Alan Hall

Secretary Amanda Hall

Hon. Treasurer Graham Bentley

Hon. Membership Sec Ruth Frost

- iv. Updates and open floor for members (AOB)**
- v. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 17 July 2018 at Kala Sangam (St Peter's House) Forster Square.**



Treasurer's report

It's most pleasing to record that we have arrested the steady, albeit modest decline in our funds over the last two years which have recovered to a level last seen at the start of 2015. We ended the year with a healthy balance of £2,591.90 (in comparison, the corresponding figures for 2016 and 2017 were respectively £2,232.27 and £1,851.07) so in pure money terms, we can say that 2017/8 was a success.

Of significance over the past year was the introduction of online facilities which enabled supporters to pay for membership and ticketed events via the Eventbrite platform, all of which made an extremely worthwhile contribution as the figures show.

It's worth underlining the important contribution which our five new corporate members made to our bottom line. I'll also mention that we were successful in growing general membership numbers by taking an innovative approach to pricing. This in turn led to the £100 award we received from the Yorkshire & Humberside Association of Civic Societies in February – a very definite feather in our cap.

We successfully reclaimed £333.10 of Gift Aid for the year 2015/6 and we will shortly be pursuing further outstanding claims for the financial years ended 2016/7 and 2017/8. At this point, I would like to acknowledge the generosity of our Vice Chairman, Alan Hall, who for several years, has helped to keep us afloat by donating all the royalties from his two books about Bradford ("The Story of Bradford" and "Bradford in 100 Dates") – paying in the contributions from his various city centre tours as donations against which Gift Aid is claimed.

Looking at our payments for the year, we maintained our own corporate memberships of YHACS and Civic Voice through which our annual insurances package is purchased via their national scheme with Lockton Companies plc. It should be explained that the cost of membership to Civic Voice is linked to the number of members we have so this year's increase reflects our growing support base. To enable us to move with the times, it was necessary to appoint a new website designer in FoxDuo Design & Print Ltd and although we paid £470.00 during the period, it has been money well spent as the figures show.

Looking forward, the challenge will be to maximise existing income streams, contain expenses to a sustainable level, and develop new funding sources which will enable us to take on more ambitious activities and projects in which connection, The Heritage Lottery Fund may offer some opportunities.

Finally, may I give personal thanks to our trustee Bob Watson for the swift and professional way in which he has audited our financial records over the last two years and express the hope that he can be persuaded to do so for a little longer.

Graham Bentley, Treasurer



Chair's report

I just want to begin by saying how much I've enjoyed my first year as the Chair of Bradford Civic Society – and what a tremendously packed 12 months it's been!

To echo our treasurer's comments, I'm delighted to say that our group is now in a period of steady growth, and we have some impressive numbers to show for it. In the 12 months since our last AGM, we have welcomed over 80 new individual members; five new corporate members – namely The Midland Hotel, The Broadway, Bradford College, Napoleons Casinos, and Provident Financial; two new community partners in Kala Sangam arts centre and the Yorkshire Society; over 1,200 new followers on Twitter; plus new officers to our executive group.

Big numbers are all well and good, but it's been important to me that we have been able to instigate some tangible, positive action for Bradford too. I think we've done this in many ways – not least by helping to secure a crucial £4 million cash injection for the Odeon redevelopment project. We've also hosted numerous public debates, talks and special members' only events, and I think it's fair to say that Bradford Civic Society is now considered a true authority on regeneration issues in our city.

When I took on the Chair's role, I promised to raise our profile and make friends in new places, and I've very much enjoyed doing both. I now represent Bradford Civic Society on the boards of the proposed Business Improvement District; the Townscape Heritage Initiative; and Bradford Council's Place Board. These roles strengthen our ties with other civic-minded groups in Bradford, and give the Civic Society an important role in the day-to-day development of our city centre.

Finally, and most importantly, what does the future look like? If re-elected as Chair, I have two initial priorities. **The first is to strengthen our lobbying function so that we can become powerful advocates for better development in Bradford.** I'd like to do this by forming a new 'design review panel' of experts and practitioners to meet independently of the Civic Society and report back on major civic design matters – such as the forthcoming Forster Square retail development. **Secondly, I want to formally launch a blue plaque scheme for Bradford in July**, with the first plaque ready to go up on the newly renovated St George's Hall.

I will, of course, continue our varied programme of talks, debates, special events and exhibitions... in fact we have a couple of very exciting ones in the pipeline that I can't wait to share with you all. In the meantime, I thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to working with you all to make Bradford an even better place.

Simon Cunningham, Chair



Key events in 2017/18

2017	Title	Event type	Approx attendance
April	How Do You Solve A Problem Like Darley Street?	Debate (co-hosted with BDPitP)	70
May	AGM	AGM	20
June	Unseen Undercliffe	Tour	30 (paid event)
July	Bradford: 2028	Panel Discussion	40
August	Inside the Odeon	Tour	40 (mem exclusive)
September	Can Little Germany Ever Thrive?	Talk	30
September	YHACS Autumn meeting	Conference at City Hall	40 (YHACS members)
October	The Ghosts of City Hall	Tour	30 (paid event)
November	The Ghosts of City Hall (Xmas)	Tour	30 (paid event)
November	Regenerating Bradford	Talk	25
December	Christmas Lunch	Lunch	40 (paid event)
2018			
January	An Oasis of Peace in BD1	Talk (and tour)	20**
February	Save High Point...?	Debate	60
February	Odeon clean-up	Action Day	30 (mem exclusive)
April	Annual Dinner	Dinner + Talk	24 (paid event)
May	AGM	AGM	
Coming soon			
Wed 6 June	Summer Social	Drinks + City Park tour for members only (limited)	
Tues 17 July	Blue Plaques for Bradford	Meeting + Plaque scheme launch Kala Sangam (St Peter's House)	
August	The Bradford Blitz	Talk with Olly Denton (Venue TBC)	
September	Central mosque visit	Tour and talk with Dr George Sheeran (Central Mosque, Westgate)	
September	Heritage Open Days	Tours (Various Locations, TBC)	
October	The Ghosts of City Hall	Tour Bradford Police Museum	

To fit in...

Odeon clean up (part 2), Perry Austin Clarke talk, RIBA Housing Exhibition



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