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Submissions

If you would like to contribute to the Pomfretian please call **07936 860 215** or email hello@pomfretian.co.uk. We're always delighted to hear from writers, photographers and anyone involved in a local group or activity.

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Community News



Leisure Hub On Track

Construction of the £20.8 million leisure hub project is already taking shape and is currently on track to open in autumn 2020. The facility is being constructed by Willmott Dixon who, wherever possible, are using local labour and resources to deliver the scheme. Wakefield Council are also working with the construction partner to develop and deliver a range of outreach and community projects to benefit the local area.

Delivery of the project has been supported by grants totaling £2million, comprising a £1.5 million award from the National Lottery, awarded through Sport England and a further £500,000 through the Premier League, The FA and the Government, delivered by the Football Foundation.

When completed, the flagship facility will provide users from across Pontefract, Castleford and Knottingley with a comprehensive range of contemporary, high-quality sport, recreational and social activities.



Pontefract and Knottingley Connect

Another leg of the 8km cycle route, which runs from Beechnut Lane to Mill Dam lane, has been completed. The works have transformed the narrow and overgrown route, which runs adjacent to the Prince of Wales development site and around Pontefract Collieries FC, into a wider and more open space for pedestrians and cyclists.

The dilapidated concrete fence and debris have now been replaced with a 3m wide surface and a small earth bund to help create a more open and welcoming environment.

The works help to improve connectivity between residential developments at the former Prince of Wales colliery site, Pontefract Park and Monkhill station.

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



New Leader for Wakefield Council

Cllr Denise Jeffery has been appointed as the new Leader of Wakefield Council. The appointment, which will commence from 1 December 2019, follows the announcement from Cllr Peter Box CBE that he will be stepping down as Leader at the end of November to focus on his new role as Chairman of Welcome to Yorkshire. Cllr Jeffery, who will become Wakefield's first female Council Leader, has been the Deputy Leader for 11 years. She currently represents the Castleford Central and Glasshoughton Ward and has been a ward councillor for 30 years.

Cllr Jeffery said:

"I am very pleased and honoured to have been confirmed as Wakefield Council's new Leader, from December. I'd like to thank Cllr Box for all his work over the last 21 years and I am looking forward to building on the Council's achievements."

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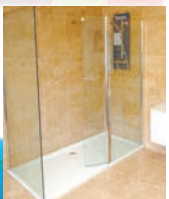
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New Artefacts Unearthed at Pontefract Castle

A number of artefacts have been unearthed at Pontefract Castle, including a musket ball and grapeshot as well as many clay pipes. The new finds have been made during a five-week archaeological excavation to unearth the gatehouse and drawbridge pit - one of the most important aspects of the famous medieval castle.

Starting out as a small wooden fort in AD 1070, Pontefract Castle was later rebuilt in stone, with new fortifications added in the medieval period, transforming it into one of the strongest inland garrisons in the kingdom. The gatehouse, which would have been designed to repel attackers and protect the castle's main entrance, is thought to have been built at the same time as the castle. However, whilst it is known that new defences were added to the gatehouse in the 1300s, little is known about how or why they were made. What it may have looked like and how much of it remains below ground are all questions the DigVentures team are hoping to answer.

Maiya Pina-Dacier, Head of Community at DigVentures, which is conducting the dig on behalf of Wakefield Council said:

"This is a rare opportunity to come and see the most important part of one England's most famous medieval castles being unearthed. It will be the first time



anyone has seen the gatehouse and drawbridge pit since the castle was torn down at the end of the English Civil War. Given that Pontefract was one of the most impressive castles in the country, its gatehouse must have been incredible. We can't wait to see what new evidence we'll discover about how it might have looked."

The investigations into the gatehouse are also being supported by Historic England and West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service. Ian Sanderson from Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service said:

"The results promise to transform our understanding of Pontefract castle's development, whilst the potential for discovering finds in the gate-house ditch that will illuminate life in the castle, is very high."

The public are invited to see for themselves what has been discovered so far as part of Archaeology season at Pontefract Castle. Free tours are taking place at 2pm each day until 3 November (except 31 October) to see the hidden mystery come to light.

To see what's on and find out how to join a hands-on event, visit pontefractcastle.co.uk/digventures.aspx and follow the dig on Twitter and Facebook at #PonteCastleDig.

Andrew's Home Selling Tips

by Andrew Baxter of Enfields



January is typically the most popular time of year for homeowners to put their house on the market. Year after year, I see homeowners waiting until after Christmas to instruct an estate agent, only to fall victim to the January Rush backlog and missing out on the spike of property views on Rightmove and Zoopla over the Christmas Holidays.

These are my top reasons why you should get your house on the market before Christmas, rather than waiting until the New Year:

1. THERE IS LESS COMPETITION OVER CHRISTMAS

The surge of new homes coming to market in January and February means competition is through the roof (pun intended!). With so many potential buyers on the hunt for a new home over the Christmas holidays, your home will attract attention from these buyers while competition is lower:

2. YOU WILL AVOID THE JANUARY RUSH

Because of the January Rush, it can take longer than usual for a house to be brought to market during this time. Once you have instructed an estate agent, there are several stages to the process before your house is advertised to the world, including signing paperwork, photography, measuring your home and approving sales particulars, as well as finding time slots that both you and your estate agent can do, meaning this process takes several days to a few weeks. Instructing an estate agent before Christmas will mean your house will be on the market quickly and you can relax over Christmas rather than having to attend meetings and go through paperwork.

3. THE NEW YEAR CULTURE MEANS BUYERS WANT A NEW HOME FOR THE NEW YEAR

The start of the new year typically brings with it the feelings of starting afresh, setting intentions for the

12 months ahead and leaving bygones in the past. Whether you love or loathe the tradition of setting New Year's Resolutions, it's impossible to deny that the majority of people welcome the New Year with high ambitions and the desire for things to be better. And people will be in the same mindset if they are wanting to move home. It typically takes around three months for a house sale to be finalised. Conscious of this fact, buyers will be eager to have an offer accepted on a new home before the start of the New Year if they are to have a good chance of being in for Easter.

4. POTENTIAL BUYERS HAVE TIME TO BROWSE & VIEW HOMES OVER CHRISTMAS

Fact: property viewings boom over the Christmas period. Last Christmas, Rightmove Tweeted they had more than 25 million page views of their website on Boxing Day alone. Over the Christmas holidays, people have more time to browse properties online and arrange viewings. Most schools in Pontefract break off for Christmas on Friday 20th December and children return on Monday 6th January 2020. As the majority of parents will take annual leave from work to be with their children, it makes these two weeks the perfect time to have your house on the market and ready for viewings.

Are you wanting to sell your home?

I'm encouraging any homeowner who is looking to sell their house to book an appointment with us now so that we can help get your home on the market ready for the viewings boom of the Christmas Holidays.

Book your free valuation with Enfields Pontefract by emailing sales-pontefract@enfields.co.uk or calling us 01977 233124.



Pontefract Choral Society

by Gill Fletcher

Pontefract Choral Society, formed in 1874, has a long and successful history.

It aims to make choral music readily accessible to the wider community through live concerts and to provide the opportunity for local people to develop their musical skills.

In the past, there were grand concerts in the Pontefract Assembly rooms, with full professional orchestras and soloists. Now, financial considerations mean that these are no longer possible. This situation does, however, have its advantages, for we are able to use local musicians and soloists, many of them promising young performers at the start of their careers, whom we are keen to encourage and support.

The society currently has around fifty members, with a good balance of voices,

though new members are always very welcome.

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays 7.00pm to 9.00pm in the Congregational Church Hall on Finkle Street, Pontefract WF8 1HE. Concerts are held 4 times a year in St Giles's Church, Market Place, Pontefract WF8 1AT

The autumn and spring concerts consist of classical works by various composers, old and new. The Christmas concert includes a popular mix of carols and includes audience carols.

Our summer concerts tend to have a more secular, light-hearted programme. We have recently sung music from films including some James Bond films, Mamma Mia, Amadeus, Singing in the rain and the Wizard of Oz.

This coming summer we plan to sing music from British composers including The Beatles ,

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Elton John.

Tickets for our concerts are available from choir members or may be purchased on the door on the day of the performance. Accompanied under 16s are admitted free of charge.

Our musical director is Aljosa Skorja, who is an accomplished conductor and vocal coach. He is also the Director of music at the Parish Church of St. Matthew's Leeds. He regularly conducts for the Slovenian Symphony Orchestra, and his own orchestra from St. Matthew's accompany many of our concerts.

Our rehearsal and performance accompanist is the multi talented Pritiva Attiken. Pritiva is also a gifted cellist and often plays in the orchestra at our concerts if she is not playing piano. We also have a small group of singers who are available to sing at weddings, funerals, and local events.

In order to ensure that the choir is able to maintain the high standard of performance, which has come to be the hallmark of the society, we rely on the support of patrons; both individual patrons and business patrons. For more information on becoming a patron, please email our Patrons Secretary, Melanie France, at melefrance@aol.com.

We are fully committed to supporting each other in a friendly, welcoming environment, to experience the joy of singing in a group along with the health benefits it brings. When people sing together, they feel an increased sense of community, belonging and shared endeavour.

If you would like to join us, just turn up at one of our Thursday rehearsals or, for more information, check out our website at www.pontefractchoralsociety.weebly.com, find us on Facebook or contact us on 01977 709659.

Our next concert is Mozart - Coronation Mass and Haydn- Little organ Mass at 7.30pm on Saturday 2nd November at St Giles's church Pontefract.



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Pomfret Woodland Community Nursery

by Claire Jones

Pomfret Woodland Community Nursery is looking for directors to join its board. These positions are voluntary, and we are looking for individuals with business and/or education backgrounds to help steer the nursery in the right direction.

Pomfret Woodland Community Nursery is a not-for-profit company that provides care and education for 0-5 year olds and a holiday club provision for 3-11 year olds. The nursery is situated within Chequerfield, adjacent to the Pomfret Children's Centre.

The nursery was established in 2004 by Wakefield MDC as part of the neighbourhood nurseries initiative, to provide high quality childcare and education in the more disadvantaged wards in the Wakefield area. In 2013, after been threatened with closure, the nursery was transferred by the Local Authority to a group of parents and staff, who had formed

Pomfret Woodland Community Nursery CIC.

Since 2013 the nursery has gone from strength to strength and numbers have grown along with the staff team. The company has made several alterations to the building to ensure it meets the needs of the children who attend. The nursery has between 80-100 children on roll at any one time, and currently has a staff team of 18.

The nursery has a 'good' OFSTED grade which it retained at its last inspection. The nursery manager is also a qualified forest school leader and the outdoors is an important aspect of the nursery's ethos. With a large outdoor area, we are able to provide lots of opportunities for climbing and exploring and all our practitioners are enthusiastic about outdoor learning.

The nursery continues to grow and develop, however it is now running at around the maximum level of occupancy. The focus now is on improving the quality of the care and education



the team deliver and working towards an 'outstanding' OFSTED grade.

Future projects include the development of staff through running an apprenticeship and training programme. We currently support students from New College in Pontefract and aim to continue this partnership. We are registered with Sheffield Hallam and Bradford universities to support teacher training placements and aim to develop this further. We have a qualified teacher and an Early Years Professional as part of the team who can support teacher training students.

The directors meet approximately 9-10 times a year, to review the finances, support nursery development and address any HR issues. Directors give their time voluntarily and, at present, the board comprises of the nursery manager, current nursery parents and members of the local community. Directors are welcome to spend time in the nursery to observe practice and get to know the staff, which supports their understanding of how the nursery operates.

If you are interested in joining our board and would like more information we would love to hear from you, please contact us at pomfretwoodlandnursery@yahoo.co.uk or call Nicola Barker, Nursery Manager on 01977 780333.

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Pontefract's Carnegie Library

Pontefract Museum was officially opened by Mr J.G.Lyons on 21st September 1905 as a Free Public Library built with money donated by the famous Scottish-American businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. At first, Carnegie Libraries were almost exclusively built in places where he had a personal connection but, in later years, few towns that requested a grant and agreed to his terms, known as "The Carnegie Formula", were refused money.

When a proposal was put forward to institute a Free Library in Pontefract, as a memorial for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the citizens were asked to vote whether this was what they wanted, with the results being 700 voting against and only 150 being in favour. Indeed when a local newspaper editor approached Mr Carnegie for one such grant the reply came back that "the attitude of the townspeople suggests that they do not want one!" It was then up to the Town Clerk of Pontefract in 1902 to write to Mr Carnegie and again ask for a grant to build the free library, which resulted in the princely sum of "twenty two hundred and fifty pounds sterling". However this sum did not prove to be sufficient and another £330 was needed to cover the total cost of the works.

The architects, who provided their services free of charge, were Garside and Pennington and the builder was Henry Gundhill. Built in the art nouveau style, with an impressive green tiled entrance hall and



staircase, it is now a Grade 2 listed building and is a great original example, displaying beautiful plant motifs, grand curves and many original 1904 furnishings.

The Library opened in 1905 when, after a public appeal for book donations for the lending and reference departments, Mr Lyons donated £500 for 2700 books which included 450 reference books. Mr Herbert M. Brown was then appointed as Librarian at a salary of £70 per annum. The building operated as a successful Library until 1973, when a foundation stone was laid by Alderman R Egan for the new library on Salter Row, with the old building becoming the museum of today.

Free Entry and a warm welcome
Pontefract Museum now invites visitors old and new to come and discover Pontefract's fascinating history, housed in the beautiful original library building.



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Pontefract Castle in Victorian Times

By John Turner

I'm a volunteer at Pontefract Castle and many times I have been asked "How much is it to get in?" Nowadays there is no charge but 130 years ago, the family ticket cost £1. (Before decimalisation, which started on 15 February 1971, for hundreds of years this country used pounds, shillings and pence - £, s and d. £1 = 20 shillings and every shilling was equal to 12 pennies, 12d). In Victorian times £1 was considered a large amount of money. Bricklayers, carpenters and masons would be paid 6 shillings and 6 old pennies for a 10-hour day and a 6-day week. That amount is just 33 pence today. Also, a pound in late Victorian times would pay for 2 weeks rent. So not everybody could have afforded to visit the Castle.

The official opening of the Castle was on

Monday 28 July 1884. This was to coincide with the 400th anniversary of Pontefract being made a town with a local government. People gathered in the Corn Market and then a procession went through the town to the castle. The key to the castle gates was put on a velvet cushion by Mr Rhodes, the lodge keeper, and presented to Mr Tew for the official opening. (Thomas William Tew was originally an engineer before joining the family business of banking. He was a historian philanthropist and Freemason).

It is said that between 4 and 5 thousand came through the gates. There was free entry on that day. There were speeches, music and communal singing. The event finished with the singing of 'God Save the Queen'. Children went back to their schools and were given a 'substantial tea',

most likely tea, buns and sweet cake.

Today's townsfolk will look back to when they visited the castle as children, maybe with their school, and may remember the tennis courts and that there was much more greenery around the castle. This was a legacy from Victorian times, when the castle was more of a pleasure garden, rather than what the castle would have looked like 400 years ago. The 19th century saw the introduction of many parks and gardens for the general public to enjoy. At the weekend, couples and families would walk around the castle. The walkways were decorated with trees, hedges, shrubs and flowers. There was a window constructed at the top of the keep where you could look and see St Giles Church in the distance. This was to give spiritual comfort. As well as tennis courts, golf has also been played in the castle. Music was played at a bandstand, (not the one that has been recently built near the Gatehouse).

The biggest event at the Castle was on Tuesday 22 June 1887, when the town took part in the celebrations for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Again, the castle grounds were made open to the public for this day. Every group and organisation associated with the town was represented in the parade to the Castle including The Borough Band, The Pontefract Volunteers, all the schools, associations and, not forgetting, "the cyclists of the town and district in cycling costume, on plain or decorated machines."

The coming together of different groups celebrating an event involving the castle brings me up to date. Throughout the year, there are events that bring people together. Pontefract winning the Best Dressed Town for the Tour de Yorkshire in 2019 is an example of different groups and organisations cooperating to achieve recognition for our town.

John Turner is Town Crier of Pontefract and a member of Pontefract Heritage Group. For more information on becoming a member of Pontefract Heritage Group visit www.pontefractheritagegroup.org.uk

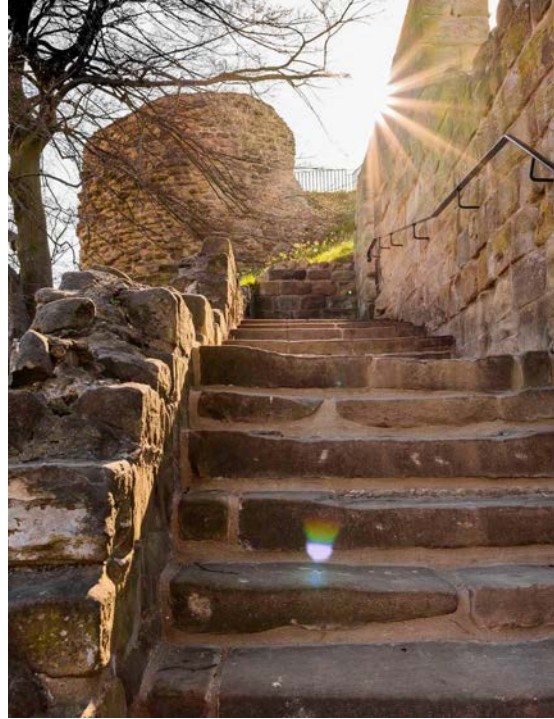


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Ducks and Green Pease

By Carole Archer

Ducks and Green Pease Row in Pontefract is the unusual name of a ginnel, or snicket, at the side of the Beastfair Vaults public house linking Beastfair to Shoe Market. It is named after a, once popular, one act satire called 'The Newcastle Rider' or 'Ducks and Green Pease', which was performed in the Pontefract Theatre mainly in the 18th century.

The original story was published in Pontefract in 1776 by local barber and wigmaker John Lund (1726-1786), as a poem of 'considerable humour' but not 'ranking very highly as a literary work'. However, it immediately attracted public attention and further editions were released in 1777, 1778, 1793, 1820 and 1838.

The tale tells of a Newcastle clerk (commercial traveller) who, whilst journeying the country on behalf of his master, puts on a gold trimmed hat and swaggering air and pretends to be a Lord. After months away and on his way back to Newcastle, having passed through Leeds and Knaresborough, he decides to spend the night at

the Queen's Head Hotel in Harrogate.

Here he orders that a couple of ducks and a pot of green peas are prepared for him, to be served in a private room on the upper floor of the hotel.

"What can I have? Sir what you please,
Then hark ye – get me Ducks and Peas,
A couple? Yes, and fat ones too,
Or else by G-d they will not do:
And let a peck of pease be boild,
Or otherwise my supper's spoild;
Set them directly on the fire."
Sir, - all shall be done as you desire."

A gentleman and his wife arrive at the hotel soon after and, smelling the cooking birds, ask the landlord to enquire if 'our hero' would be willing to share his supper. The salesman is very rude in his refusal and the gentleman asks again but, this time, just for his wife to share the food. To this the rogue replies:

"D-n ye begone, and say no more,
 You scurvy curst son of a whore,
 Or else I'll kick you out of door:
 Was she the queen, you stupid clod,
 She should not sup with me, by G-d"

The Gentleman is much affronted by this treatment of his wife and goes to see who this vile mannered man is, only to discover that it is his own clerk, Joseph.

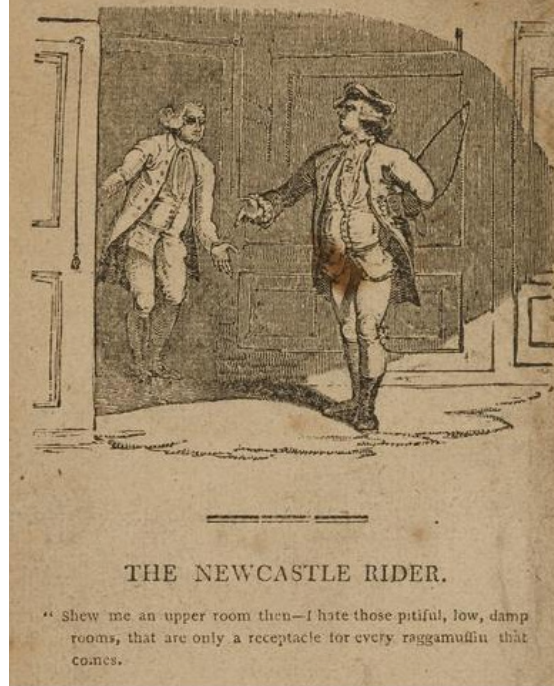
However, at this revelation, the Gentleman sees the joke of the situation - "it's such a noble piece of fun" - but Joseph becomes a laughing stock in the hotel.

A second edition of Ducks and Pease; or the Newcastle rider, including the one act stage farce version and several other originals works, was published in London in 1777 and sold by Lund and J Lyndley, Bookseller, in Pontefract.

His final work, "A Collection of Oddities in Prose and Verse, Serious and Comical, by a very Odd Author" was printed in Doncaster in 1779. In the preface he writes that "he pretends to some little skill in cookery, having already provided a dish of ducks and green pease, which were highly relished; and he has now prepared one very palatable for such as love plain English eating".

John Lund, also wrote a poem called "Pomfret" which may better suit our modern ears.

"If situation hath a power to please
 If air salubrious can give ease,
 If spacious streets and handsome houses join'd,
 Can satisfaction raise within his mind, -
 If noble ruins mouldering with rust,
 Where ancient monarchs mingle with the dust.
 If gardens all around can please the eyes,
 Embellish'd o're with Flora's painted dyes, -
 If peace and plenty, which doth here abide.
 (laying all pique and prejudice aside,
 If charms are these worthy of my song,
 Come here, ye grave, ye gay, ye old and young,
 Come here and view the subject of my theme,
 Confess that Pomfret's worthy of my esteem."



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Photo by Michael Hirst

There's One Tower Missing

by Jill Williams

The mighty towers were standing proud,
From the distance watched on by an anxious crowd.
The siren blew and then the rocket was lit,
Sixty seconds later; the tower crumbled and hit,
The ground beneath it, then plumed the dust,
It crept far and wide and encompassed us.
Our face and clothes dirty, our mouths like a desert, so dry,
Flecks of floating grit settled in our hair and in our eyes.
At first there was silence, spectators all in shock,
Number 6 tower had gracefully dropped.
Some folk were somber; some folk were merry,
But today we're one tower missing in dear old Ferry.

Priory Gardens

Nestled in the popular town of Pontefract in West Yorkshire, Priory Gardens is a lovely, purpose-built care home offering residential, nursing and residential memory care for those living with dementia.

Our welcoming care home offers a home-from-home where older people receive the care they need and the support they want to continue to live their life with dignity and choice.

- Comfortable day rooms
- 9.6 carehome.co.uk user rating
- Beauty salon
- Little break – Short term care
- Home from home – Long term care
- Overall 'Good' CQC rating

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Pontefract International Festival of Ale

Pontefract is fortunate to have played host to a number of significant events and festivals throughout 2019. Events such as the Lantern Festival, Proms in the Castle, Heritage Open Days and Yorkshire Day have helped to put Pontefract on the map by drawing both residents and tourism to the town. The annual Liquorice Festival, which is now well established as part of the town's calendar, brought thousands of visitors to the town in July. Similarly, the Friarwood Festival, now in its second year, built on the successes of 2018 by bringing the community together in the beautiful surroundings of Friarwood Valley Gardens.

Whilst the new year is fast approaching, 2019 is far from over and the town's calendar of events still has much to offer. Indeed, this November will see the launch of

the very first Pontefract International Festival of Ale, which seeks to act as a beacon to draw crowds into the town using food, music and real ales. We sat down with Henry Smith Brewery, one successful part of Revolutions Brewing Company, at their home The Robin Hood.

"The Pontefract International Festival of Ale is about utilising the facilities and spaces within Pontefract to attract people to make the most of what the town has to offer - for the good of its residents, the local economy and the pleasure of its visitors."

The festival, which will take place on 21st to 24th November across numerous locations including the Robin Hood, Hope & Anchor, Tap & Barrel, The Old Grocers and the Bluebell, also hopes to draw attention to a rejuvenation of the brewing industry in

Pontefract. Once reputed to have held the British record for the town with the most pubs per square mile and having been home a well-established malt trade, Pontefract is currently seeing a real ale renaissance.

“The festival will highlight the fact that Pontefract is once again brewing and industry is growing; jobs are being provided and experts are being born of that industry. There will be 3 master brewers, based in Pontefract, by the end of this year.”

Henry Smiths Brewery, situated at the back of the Robin Hood recently started brewing their own beers and plan to bring the trade of brewing back to Pontefract. A recent partnership with Castleford based Revolutions Brewing Co. has furthered this goal, with aspirations to bring the whole operation to Pontefract in the future and introduce new skills and employment opportunities to the area.

“The festival is one spoke in the wheel, alongside all the other good things that are happening in Pontefract. We are proud to be working in partnership with other pubs in the town and our brewers Sebastian, Paul and Caitlin at Revolutions Brewing Co.”

However, whilst the festival will offer a selection of over 100 different beers including ales brewed by local, independent small-scale breweries, the hope is to form lasting relationships with brewers overseas and, as the name suggests, make the festival a truly international affair.

“We source some of our hops from Europe and, in the midst of Brexit, are still looking to reach out across those borders and celebrate our economic relationships overseas.”

The Pontefract International Festival of Ale takes place between 21st and 24th November. For more information, look out for an events programme, which will be made available across participating venues from 16th November.



What's On?

Additional events and more details on all the events listed below can be found at www.pomfretian.co.uk. If you would like to have your event included on this page, please send details to events@pomfretian.co.uk

Halloween Spookeasy

1 November, 7pm - 11:30pm
The Blind Pig Pontefract

Join us for an evening of screamingly good food, drinks and entertainment. Tickets cost £15 including a welcome drink & pie and peas (veggie option available). Call 07591 473417 for more information or to book tickets.

Edgar Jones Jones – DeeJay! Presented by Rev Reynolds

1 November, 8:30pm
The Tap & Barrel

Edgar Jones Jones, one of Liverpool's finest musicians, is bringing some of his soul records to the Tap for a unique Friday when he'll be our very special guest deejay. Free event.

Dig Experience

1 - 3 November,
10am - 1pm & 2pm - 5pm
Pontefract Castle

Our friendly team of archaeologists from DigVentures will show you how to excavate, identify different archaeological layers, and spot important archaeological features in the ground. Adults & Children 12+. To check availability and book, please call 01924 302700.

Halloween: Lost Boys Outdoor Cinema & 80s Disco!

2 November,
6:30pm - 11:30pm
Pontefract Racecourse

Hosted by Sneaky Experience. Including local, independent food stalls serving tasty treats and a cocktail bar selling themed cocktails. Visit www.sneakyexperience.co.uk to find out more and book tickets.

Northern Soul Night

2 November, 7pm - 12am
Mauds Cafe

Outwood Northern Soul will be producing a set full of NS classics at Mauds Bar. Start the evening from 6 with our happy hour followed by a full evening of NS Music. Tickets on sale now at £5 each.

Carleton & District Ladies Group Meeting

4 November,
7pm for 7:30pm
The Rugby Club, Carleton

Jennifer Haworth will be telling us about the Wonkey Donkey Sanctuary. Meeting fee £1 for members and £2 for non-members, refreshments included.

Autumn Craft Fair

9 November, 10am - 3:30pm
Ackworth Village Club

Help us to raise funds for Ackworth Community Library by joining us at the Autumn Craft Fair. A wide variety of crafts for all the family.

Talk: Jousting in 14th & 15th Century England & France

9 November, 2pm - 3pm
Pontefract Castle

A talk looking at examples of real and literary jousts and what the surviving evidence of texts, images and arms & armour can tell us about jousting in medieval England and France. Adults Only. To check availability and book, please call 01924 302700.

What lies beneath us? The Archaeology of Tunnels

10 November, 10am - 1pm
Pontefract Castle

This course is about the kinds of uses that tunnels are put to and an opportunity for you to bring your stories and tales of Pontefract. Booking is Essential. £15 per person. WEA Pre enrolment essential. Visit www.wea.org.uk or call 0300 303 3464.

All that Jazz

12 November, 7:30pm
Nottingham Town Hall

A Flower Demonstration by Judy Watker (Room upstairs, there is a lift!). £8. All welcome. For further details contact Chris Trickett on 01977 703400.

Have a Dabble - Felt Christmas Stockings

14 November, 1pm - 3:30pm
Pontefract Castle

Homemade Christmases are the best! Make a beautiful wet felted Christmas stocking in readiness for Santa's visit. Tickets £6. To check availability and book, please call 01924 302700.

The James O'Hara Blues Trio

15 November,
8:30pm - 12am
The Tap & Barrel

Come down to the Tap & Barrel for a great night of authentic Chicago Blues with "The James O'Hara Trio" brought to you by Rev Reynolds and his Rhythm & Blues Revue night. Free event.

Annual Christmas Craft & Gift Fair

17 November, 10am - 3pm
Carleton High School

Over 30 stalls indoors. Free parking and free admission. Refreshments available.



Pontefract International Festival of Ale

21 -24 November

A 4 day festival celebrating real ale and brewing in Pontefract with food, music and over 100 real ales across the Robin Hood, Hope & Anchor, Tap & Barrel, The Old Grocers and the Bluebell.

Wines from around the World Dinner

22 November, 7pm - 9:30pm
Wentbridge House Hotel

An exclusive dinner featuring award-winning wine merchant Liberty Wines. Includes arrival drink and delicious canapes followed by a seasonal four-course dinner with wines. £65 per person. Call 01977 620444 for more information or to book tickets.

Family History - Basic Masterclass

23 November,
10:30am - 3:30pm
Pontefract Castle

Ideal for beginners, dabblers and those with genealogy experience. Adults only. £22.50 per ticket. To check availability and book, please call 01924 302700.

Festive Willow Weaving

27 November, 7pm - 9pm
Farmer Copleys

Try your hand at something new and create your very own Rudolph, ready for the festive season. Suitable for both beginners & experienced weavers! Booking essential. Visit www.farmercopleys.merlintickets.co.uk to book.

Talk: The Catholic Gentry of Yorkshire

29 November, 1pm - 2pm
Pontefract Museum

Join us this November for a fascinating talk on the catholic gentry of Yorkshire, led by Dr Sarah Bastow of the University of Huddersfield. To check availability and book, please call 01924 302700.

An Evening of Entertainment Charity Concert

30 November, 7pm
St Giles Church

A night of musical entertainment, organised by the Rotary Club and the Hospice and Charities Darts & Domino league, in aid of Prince of Wales Hospice. Featuring The Castleford male Voice Choir, The West Yorkshire Police Band and soloist singer, Emma Brown. Tickets cost £10 and can be obtained by either ringing with, or texting your details and ticket requirements to, Bill Henderson on 07939 100215 or by emailing your request to hospicedarts@yahoo.co.uk

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Go to pontefract.enfields.co.uk to get your valuation.

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