



**RENAISSANCE
KNARESBOROUGH**

Renaissance Knaresborough

- NEWSLETTER -

"Working to make a great town better"

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Useful websites...

Main website:
www.knaresborough.org.uk
Harrogate Borough Council:
www.harrogate.gov.uk
Yorkshire Forward RMT portal:
www.rmtportal.com
Funding opportunities
www.harrogate.gov.uk/immediacy-4191

Contact us...

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Our sponsors...



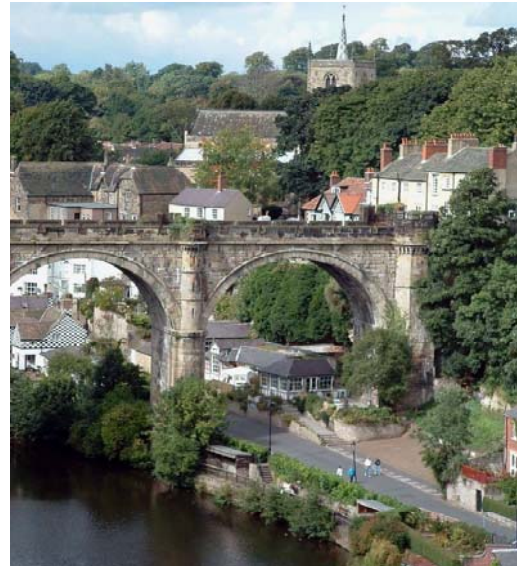
Dear reader

Welcome to the first of what I hope will be a series of newsletters explaining why Renaissance Knaresborough was created and to give you an idea of where we are in relation to the projects we are working on to **"make a great town better"**.

Knaresborough was fortunate enough to be selected for the Yorkshire Forward led Renaissance Market Town (RMT) Programme, which is the latest programme that aims to make our "rural towns" places where people want to "live, work, invest and visit".

Renaissance Knaresborough is the organisation tasked with identifying, developing and delivering projects that improve Knaresborough. In this and future newsletters, we will keep you informed on the progress being made on current projects.

Overseeing the work of Renaissance Knaresborough is the Town Team, which comprises of local people/organisations who are drawn together by a desire to improve the quality of life in the town.



Renaissance Knaresborough is open to anyone who lives, works or studies in the town, or who just supports the aims of the Town Team.

I hope you will find this newsletter of interest. If you have any comments on the newsletter or wish to get involved in any way with Renaissance Knaresborough you can do so via the contact details shown on the left of this page.

Gordon Renton
Chair of Renaissance Knaresborough

P.S. Please contact us if you wish / no longer wish to be directly sent a copy of the newsletter. Copies of the newsletter are available in public amenities around the town and by visiting the main website.

Knaresborough Initiative Fund 2008-09

This time each year, Renaissance Knaresborough operates a small grants scheme named the "Knaresborough Initiatives Fund", using funding from Harrogate Borough Council (HBC).



Community groups/organisations located in and around the town can apply for a grant of up to £1500 to help support projects/initiatives that improve the quality of life for local residents/communities and coincide with the Renaissance Knaresborough Town Charter, which is contained within the Application Form and Guidance Notes.

To apply for the 2008-09 Initiative Fund, your community group/organisation needs to submit an applicant form by **Friday 29th February 2008, 5pm**. Notification of the funding allocation will be in early March 2008, and successful applicants will need to spend the funding by March 2009.

To obtain an applicant form, and/or for further information, please contact Peter Crossley
peter.crossley@harrogate.gov.uk
Tel: 01423 556019



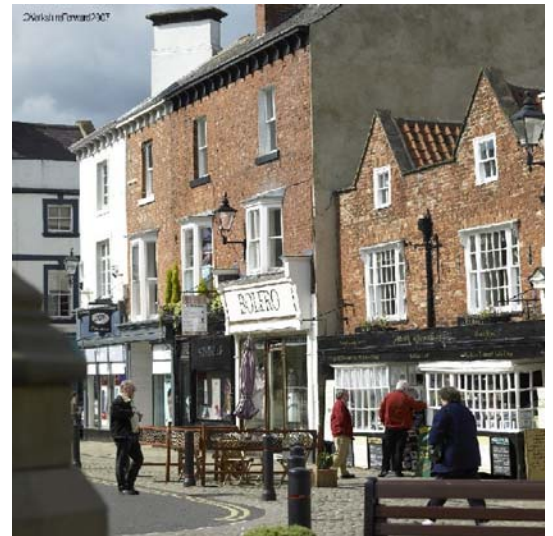
Improving the Offer

"Improving the economic and physical fabric of both Knaresborough and Boroughbridge."

This proposed £1 million package of projects across Knaresborough and Boroughbridge is being developed by Renaissance Knaresborough and Yore Vision (the town team in Boroughbridge). Support is provided from Yorkshire Forward, the Chamber of Trades, Town Councils, HBC Officers, and other key stakeholders.

The 'Improving the Offer' package of projects in Knaresborough is to include:

- **Property Improvement Grants** to encourage re-development of empty and under-used properties; improve the appearance of shop fronts; and help repair the historic fabric of commercial town centre buildings. Expressions of interest from businesses are welcome.
- **'Welcome to Excellence' courses** to improve the quality of customer service and to increase the competitiveness and productivity of tourism, retail and hospitality businesses. Contact us to find out more about how these courses could benefit you and your business.
- **A Development Brief for the Cattle Market / former Pickles Site** to ensure that it is developed to meet the town's need and sustain Knaresborough's vitality and viability. Consultation has been carried out on this and the findings will be presented in the next edition of the newsletter.
- **Public Realm Improvements at Knaresborough Riverside** to enhance this unique natural feature.



It is anticipated that the funding to support this package can be secured from a variety of sources of which Yorkshire Forward will be the main funder through the Renaissance Market Town Programme. Other funders include Harrogate Borough Council and Private Sector contributions, and it is hoped that the package will be up and running in February / March 2008.

For further information about the various elements being developed within this package, please contact Rebecca on 01423 556052 or at rebecca.micallef@harrogate.gov.uk

Yorkshire Forward - Rural Target Fund



The projects shown on this page have all been approved financial support from the Yorkshire

Forward Renaissance Market Town (RMT) Rural Target Fund (RTF). £10,000 is available for each RMT town each financial year. In 2007/08 the funding will support the Bebra Gardens and the Town Windows projects. In 2008/09 the funding will support the restoration of Horseshoe Field Bridge.

Window of opportunity opens for arts project.

Knaresborough's innovative public arts project, "Town Windows" is set to expand as a result of further funding obtained by Renaissance Knaresborough. The "Town Windows" project was launched in the summer during "feva" when three pairs of painted panels were installed on three buildings in the town:



The trompe l'oeil (trick the eye) paintings by Knaresborough artists depict aspects of Knaresborough's heritage – Blind Jack, the English Civil War and Knaresborough Zoo. We believe that the present paintings have demonstrated the quality and creativity of the project.

Renaissance Knaresborough wishes to involve the town in taking the project forward. The project has identified the owners of buildings with blind windows willing to be the site for new paintings. New ideas include Old Mother Shipton, Guy Fawkes, kings and queens who are associated with the castle and, more recent, James "Ginger" Lacey, the WW2 fighter ace who went to King James's School." With the addition of more "Town Windows" Renaissance Knaresborough will be looking to promote the project more widely, including the production of a guide leaflet.

For more information, please contact Mark Firth mark.firth2@ntlworld.com 01423 541050

Bebra Gardens planting begins.

In 2007 the local "Friends of Bebra Gardens" group took delivery of a new Masterplan to restore and enhance all of this seventy six year old garden.

Renaissance Knaresborough have now provided funding for the first phase of new planting. Volunteers have been busy removing old shrubs and clearing the first two beds, ready for



digging and the planting of almost a thousand new shrubs and bushes. The fence between the gardens and the castle moat will also be replaced before the new plants go in. Gradually over the next few years the gardens will be improved considerably and should be able to achieve the acclaimed "Green Flag" status awarded by the Civic Trust.

For further information, please contact Andrew Willoughby andrew@willouby.demon.co.uk 01423 866987

Renaissance Knaresborough contribute to re-build of important bridge.

Due to rotten beams on the Wooden Bridge over to Horseshoe Field at Knaresborough it has not been possible to take mowing equipment or any vehicles to the field. This has seriously restricted use of the field for several years. Renaissance Knaresborough have now allocated funding from Yorkshire Forward's Rural Target Fund as part of an £80,000 package of funding. Harrogate Borough Council and Knaresborough Town Council are also contributing substantial sums.



At the moment the job is out to tender with contractors and it is hoped that work will start in April this year to replace all of the timber structure.

Opening up the field to vehicles again will enable it to be used for various events throughout the year.

For further information, please contact Andrew Willoughby andrew@willouby.demon.co.uk 01423 866987

Frazer Theatre

The Frazer Theatre, more than 100 years old, is a major part of Knaresborough's cultural infrastructure. Owned and ran by the Knaresborough Players, an amateur dramatics society, the theatre provides facilities for all through music, drama, light entertainment, visual arts, play writing, street artists and film.

The building, externally and internally, is now in urgent need of refurbishment and upgrading. The Players have secured grants from a range of funders towards the costs of an exciting project that will provide a new foyer, bar area, toilets and community room on an extended second floor, with lift access.



In addition to £47,000 already secured from various sources, and £23,000 from the LIFT OFF campaign, the George A. Moore Foundation has just pledged £20,000 towards the project, with just one snag, the theatre has to match that with their own fundraising. The Players have responded by putting together an exciting programme of events over the next 3 months, aimed at turning the £20,000 into £40,000.

Support your local theatre by having a great time, and attending one or more of the events listed below!

February :

16th February (Saturday) 60's Disco at Knaresborough Cricket Club, Aspin Lane

20th February (Wednesday) Film: "Little Miss Sunshine" at the Frazer Theatre

29th February (Friday) "Knaresborough's Got Talent" competition at the Frazer Theatre

In **March** you can come along to be entertained by:

7th March (Friday) "An Evening with David Nobbs" at the Frazer Theatre

8th March [Saturday] a Coffee Morning and Jewellery at Shirley Holden's, 12 Aspin Park Drive

12th March [Wednesday] a Film at the Frazer Theatre TBA

22nd March (Saturday) Coffee Morning & Bring & Buy at the Frazer Theatre

28th March [Friday] a Folk "yolk" Evening of music at the Frazer Theatre

29th March (Saturday) Beetle Drive at Knaresborough Cricket Club

In **April** you may choose to attend:

4th April (Friday), Race Night at Knaresborough Cricket Club

5th April [Saturday] a 50's Night raising funds for the Theatre at Gracious Street

12th April (Saturday) Coffee, Cake, Chat and Craft Stalls at Gracious Street

15th April (Tuesday) illustrated Talk: "Old Rogues of Knaresborough by Arnold Kellett at the Frazer Theatre

19th April (Saturday) Musical Eggstravaganza at the Frazer Theatre

26th April [Saturday] Diamond & Tiara Ball at King James School, our finale, live music by "The Diamonds" authentic 60's covers band.

For more information about the events, please contact Shirley Holden at shirleyholden@gmail.com Tel: 01423 866347, or David Crosthwaite Tel: 01423 866658

Youth Engagement

From its inception Renaissance Knaresborough has been keen to be representative of the population of the town. In particular it has been mindful of the need to engage with and represent views of young people. The Executive Group has two places set aside for young people but these have not yet been filled.

In the autumn of 2007 Renaissance Knaresborough began a process of consultation with pupils of King James's School. With the support of Acting Head, Dr Carole Walton and Richard Wood, Assistant Headteacher, a one day session was organised with a group of 10 pupils from across the year groups. MBED, who support skills development for the Renaissance Market Town process, provided the services of film maker Ken George. The pupils were given an introduction to technical and presentation skills so that they could present their issues and ideas for the town in videos to the rest of the school population.

The first event was successful with the pupils identifying a range of issues they considered important. These included: mutual respect; amenities; and activities.

The group will be presenting their ideas to around 200 fellow pupils in order to identify priority issues. These will form the basis for the filmmaking planned for the February half-term break.

For further information, please contact Mark Firth – mark.firth@ntlworld.com Tel: 01423 541050