



**RENAISSANCE
KNARESBOROUGH**

Issue Two

Spring 2008

Renaissance Knaresborough

- NEWSLETTER -

"Working to make a great town better"

In this issue...

- Improving the Offer
- Welcome to Excellence
- £400k for Riverside
- Funding for Commercial properties
- Town Windows
- Knaresborough Initiative Fund 2008
- Knaresborough Castle rebuilt
- Horseshoe Field Bridge
- Bebra Gardens
- Community Chest Fund
- Knaresborough Super Park

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/regeneration

[n](#)

Contact us...

Renaissance Knaresborough
Conyngnam Hall
Knaresborough
HG5 9AY
regeneration@harrogate.gov.uk
01423 556019

Our sponsors...



Supported by



The Region's
Development Agency



Dear reader

Welcome to the 2nd Newsletter of Renaissance Knaresborough. I trust that you found the first interesting and informative and that we can repeat that with this issue.

Since the last Newsletter work has continued apace on several of our projects. Details of some of these can be found in this Newsletter. Others such as the Youth Project are still in their early stages and we hope to report more fully on these in subsequent Newsletters.

Our AGM is approaching fast and we hope that as many as possible will be able to attend. Full details can be found below. There is no need to book a place.

One of our first tasks after the AGM will be to review our existing projects. Some of these are now nearing completion whilst others are perhaps no longer viable. We are always on the lookout for new ideas or initiatives, which will benefit the Town in the future. Do you have an idea that we can help deliver for the benefit of Knaresborough? As part of this we are keen to involve as many people as we can in those projects. You may have a particular skill or interest, which can often make a difference in the success or otherwise of a project. If you have such an idea or can help make a great town better please come along to the AGM or contact us using the details shown.

Gordon Renton

Chair of Renaissance Knaresborough

Renaissance Knaresborough 2nd Annual General Meeting

Thursday 19th June, 7pm

at, Knaresborough House

*"Come and find out about
projects that aim to
improve your area"*



Green light for “Improving the Offer” in Knaresborough and Boroughbridge

We are delighted that the Regional Development Agency, Yorkshire Forward, have agreed to support the ‘Improving the Offer’ package of projects across Knaresborough and Boroughbridge to the tune of over half a million pounds.

As part of Yorkshire Forward’s Renaissance Market Town (RMT) programme, Renaissance Knaresborough have been working alongside HBC’s Regeneration Team and Yore Vision to develop this package of projects to improve the economic and physical fabric of both Knaresborough and Boroughbridge.

The package, with a total value of over £1.1 million, includes:

- **Knaresborough Riverside Enhancements;**
- **Property Improvement Grants** for the visual enhancement, restoration and re-use of commercial town centre sites and buildings;
- **Courses on customer care** for all tourism, retail and hospitality businesses.

The package has been developed with support from the local Chamber of Trade and Town Council. In addition to the contribution from Yorkshire Forward, funding to support the package is anticipated from a number of sources, including HBC, NYCC and Private Sector contributions.

Supported by



The Region's
Development Agency

Calling all businesses in Knaresborough!

Through ‘Improving the Offer’, we’re offering a fantastic opportunity for businesses and service providers in Knaresborough and the other market towns within the district to attend one-day customer service training courses for the brilliant price of £35 per person.

The training is part of ‘Welcome to Excellence’ which is a nationally recognised programme of courses which focus on different elements of customer care. The courses are designed to suit both new and highly experienced staff including front-line employees, managers, business proprietors and volunteers working in a whole range of tourism, retail and hospitality trades.



All businesses and service providers are being invited to attend one or more of the courses - it’s up to you which course or courses you feel would be most relevant for your business.....

The next course in the series, due to be held at Conyngham Hall, is Welcome Line on 26th June 2008. This course looks at effective telephone and email communication and how to convert enquiries into sales. For more information and to book your place, please visit www.harrogate.gov.uk/welcomeline

We are keen to tailor all of our courses to meet the needs of local businesses - if you would like to discuss any particular requirements or find out about the other courses in the series, please **contact Daniel** on 01423 799149 or at daniel.harper@harrogate.gov.uk

Funding for Commercial Properties..... don’t miss out!

There is around £200k up for grabs across Knaresborough and Boroughbridge for local businesses and property owners who want to re-develop empty or under-utilised commercial properties; improve the appearance of their shop front; or help repair the historic fabric of commercial town centre buildings.

If you are interested in applying for up to 50% of the cost of works (up to a maximum of £25k), please get in touch!

Further information on the Property Improvement Grant can be viewed at www.harrogate.gov.uk/harrogate-5409 or you can **contact Rebecca** on 01423 556052 or at rebecca.micallef@harrogate.gov.uk

£400k for the Riverside

We are delighted to have secured £400k through the Improving the Offer package to help develop the riverside area of Knaresborough as a key feature of the town. Our aim is to be able to present Waterside as a pedestrian prioritised area with improved access and enhanced views of the river.

Camlin Lonsdale Landscape Architects worked with us last year to develop an overall strategy for the enhancement of the section of Waterside from Conyngham Hall Car Park to Waterside Car Park, along with a series of more detailed proposals for a number of key areas. You may have been involved in discussions at this time.

The Improving the Offer package will allow implementation of the first phases of works between now and early 2010, the areas prioritised being:

- enhanced pedestrian priority
- improvements at Waterside Gateway
- enhancements at Viaduct Terrace

Additional small scale improvements will also be included to enhance the connection between the riverside and the town centre through signage etc.

The project steering group are now looking at how to take these elements forward, but we are also really keen that the wider community is fully briefed on plans and have their say on the proposals – keep an eye out for more details coming shortly....

For more information or to get involved, please **contact Rebecca** 01423 556052 rebecca.micallef@harrogate.gov.uk

New faces look down on the town!

Another seven new portraits have appeared in Knaresborough town centre with the completion of phase two of the "Town Windows" project. The seven trompe l'oeil (trick the eye) paintings were installed in May. Guy Fawkes, King James, King John, Mother Shipton and James "Ginger" Lacey, along with two playful self portraits, have joined the Cavalier and Roundhead, giraffe and zebra and Blind Jack in windows around town.

Renaissance Knaresborough completed phase one of its innovative public arts project, "Town Windows" in July 2007 with six paintings.

As a result of obtaining further funding, Renaissance Knaresborough was able to commission Knaresborough-based artists Julie Cope, Peter Kearney and Shirley Vine to design and paint the windows.

Renaissance Knaresborough is particularly grateful to the property owners who allowed the painted panels to be fixed to their buildings.



Town Windows project manager and Renaissance Knaresborough member, Mark Firth explained, "The months of approaching property owners, discussing subject matter, filling in planning applications and managing budgets came to a satisfying conclusion with a busy Sunday when a group of Renaissance Knaresborough team members put up all seven new paintings. Because of the heights involved this is a far from simple process. Thanks to all those affected by the obstructions caused by our hoist for their tolerance."

Renaissance Knaresborough is finalising a leaflet guide to the "Town Windows" showing where they are and explaining their subject matter. The project is also the subject of an application for an Action for Market Towns Award. Renaissance Knaresborough hopes that this will be as successful as previous entries for the Green Space Festival and the Bed Race.

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

Knaresborough Initiative Fund 2008

For the third year running, Harrogate Borough Council has provided funding for Renaissance Knaresborough to operate a small grants scheme to help support projects and initiatives that improve the quality of life for local residents and communities. Representatives of the community groups that have benefited this year are meeting at the "Castle Keep" to celebrate how their work is helping Knaresborough's regeneration.

This year's Knaresborough Initiative Fund will support Knaresborough Festival of Entertainment and Visual Arts (feva), Knaresborough Christmas Market, Friends of Bebra Gardens, Knaresborough in Bloom, Medieval Day, Knaresborough Civic Society and Knaresborough Horticultural Society.

Gordon Renton, Chair of Renaissance Knaresborough says that many people are working hard to make a great town better. "We had a difficult task choosing which groups would get funding this year as we received 14 excellent applications. We eventually decided to support these seven projects because we feel they make a very positive impact on the town and coincide with the aims of the Knaresborough Town Charter. Our main aim is to make Knaresborough a place where people want to live, work, invest in and visit. All these projects support that aim."



From left to right:

Mike Prest of Knaresborough Horticultural Society
Althea Farmer of Knaresborough Civic Society
Andrew Willoughby of Friends of Bebra Gardens
Diane Taylor of Medieval Day
Christine Willoughby of Knaresborough in Bloom
Sonia Starbuck of feva
Gordon Renton of Renaissance Knaresborough.

Knaresborough Castle rebuilt

Renaissance Knaresborough has taken an innovative high-tech approach to improving the understanding of Knaresborough Castle – it is rebuilding it! However, no stone will be moved. The castle will be recreated as it would have looked around 1315 as a computer-based virtual environment using technology common to computer games.

Renaissance Knaresborough identified funding that has enabled it to engage the services of specialist companies Manthorp ACT Ltd and Lateral Visions. These companies have previously worked for English Heritage, recreating Belsay Hall in Northumberland in a computer game. The companies have been working with students and staff at King James's School under Gary Preston in the IT department. The students have designed an engaging game that will take the player from the present ruins back in time to the 14th century where they have to undertake a series of tasks in order to find their way home.

The work to rebuild the castle has been informed by staff from Harrogate Borough Council's Museum & Arts Department. Diane Taylor at HBC has helped ensure that the work has been historically informed. It is hoped that the work will be completed in June and the game made available at the Courthouse Museum.

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

Horseshoe Field Bridge

Funded by Yorkshire Forward's Rural Target Fund money, Harrogate Borough Council and Knaresborough Town Council, this historic bridge on the Conyngham Hall Estate is presently being restored, with all new timbers. It is exciting to think that at last it will be properly re-built, allowing the possibility of some grass mowing and community events in the field again.

For more info, contact 01423 866987 andrew@willouby.demon.co.uk

Bebra Gardens

For plants to get their roots established before the long dry summer (!) all planting must be completed by the end of March. It was a rush towards the end but we managed this, with around one thousand new shrubs and herbaceous plants put in the beds alongside the crag and the moat.

Volunteers and 'young offenders' continue to work hard pulling out weeds and generally keeping the place tidy. This would not have been possible without the funding from Renaissance Knaresborough's Initiative Fund and the Yorkshire Forward Rural Target Fund. Plans are now being prepared for the continuation of this planting alongside the moat and along to the main gates. This planting will resume in September and hopefully be finished before November. Meanwhile we are applying to the Lottery Fund for a substantial amount of funding to create an exciting Water Play facility in Bebra Gardens.



For more info, contact andrew@willouby.demon.co.uk 01423 866987

Community Chest Fund – 2nd Round of funding

In September 2007, Harrogate Borough Council set up a "Community Chest" grant scheme to provide small grants to voluntary and community organisations. In December 2007 the full amount of available funding (£30,000) was distributed, but we are now pleased to say that the Council has recently agreed to contribute a further £30,000 to the Community Chest, to be available for grants from April 2008 onwards.

Grants range from £500 to £5000 and applications for this 2nd round of funding are welcome from voluntary organisations, charities and community groups based in and serving the community of the Harrogate District. You can download the application form and guidance notes by visiting www.harrogate.gov.uk/voluntary. The closing date for the next round of bids is Friday 13 June.

For further information please contact the Corporate Improvement Officer (VCS) on 01423 556706 or voluntary@harrogate.gov.uk

Knaresborough Super Park

Two play areas are due to be expanded in schemes partly funded by the BIG Lottery. The projects will enable the existing children's play areas at Knaresborough Pool and Boroughbridge Recreation ground to be expanded to provide more exciting play experiences for children and young people. Each project will see over £51,000 of new challenging equipment installed.

Knaresborough Town Council and Boroughbridge Town Council are developing the projects in partnership with Harrogate Borough Council and will be contacting local young people to help design and develop the schemes.



For further info please contact Jenni Harrop at Harrogate Borough Council jennifer.harrop@harrogate.gov.uk or 01423 556751