

**KNARESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL TASK & FINISH GROUP FOR 2025
ENCLOSURES ACT COMMEMORATION**

NOTES FROM MEETING ON 10 OCTOBER 2023

Present: Margy Longhurst (ML), Shan Oakes (SO), Helen Westmancoat (HW)
(Notetaker)

13th August 1770 was the day commissioners and local people met to discuss the implications of the Enclosure Act. We propose to make **13 August 2025 Knaresborough Day** to commemorate but also celebrate how things have moved on.

A book and also a play about the **Castle Yard Riot** have been produced or are being so this could be the basis of commemoration. Poverty caused by the Enclosure Act disenfranchised peasants and possibly led to the riot. Proposal to ask **Rowena Lloyd and Gwen Lloyd** to contribute music/play as 13th August falls in FEVA week. Also **Knaresborough Silver Band** **HW to action**

Coordinate with **Knaresborough Museum Association** on what they would like to contribute **ML to action**

David Rhodes' (DR) ideas can be used, Forest, Castle Gorge and Royal Knaresborough. Starting from the Castle there could be a progression through the town to Knaresborough House then Conyngham Hall and on to Knaresborough Forest Park along with any invited VIPs

SO to work with Knaresborough Forest Park for their input, a sort of reversal of the Enclosure Act as it will now be community owned. Celebrate and educate. Possibly have a community event in 2024 involving local artists, stressing the importance of local people looking after the land, people, nature and community **SO to action**

Extra volunteers as tourist guides are needed so ML will follow up on training through Tourist Blue Badge guides, potentially with funding from locality budgets or Town Council. She will also get out as many of the Knaresborough Forest leaflets as possible **ML to action**

The Knaresborough Forest leaflets should be updated with current information. SO to liaise with DR **SO to action**

13th August date can be publicised when Knaresborough Forest Park land is bought. Intended celebrations are in May and August. Open day at Jubilee allotments could also be part of it. A Knaresborough Day tradition could be started again, to Commemorate, Celebrate and Revitalise as a strap line. Schools should be involved with a marquee and use of the new stage at Knaresborough House or Conyngham Hall. HW has contacts at King James' School and will float the idea with them **HW to action**

Funding for the event needs to be in the Town Council Business plan and budget discussions. We should also follow up on the **Duchy lease** situation with Matt Walker. **ALL to action**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: October 27th 10.30 at Margy's house