

Knarborough Town Council Newsletter



Welcome to KTC's Winter Newsletter

Festive Greetings from The Mayor of Knarborough:

"I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful Christmas tree and lights festooning our town centre.

Our shops, cafes and pubs are all aglow with decorations and our churches resound with Christmas music.

An evening walk along Waterside to see the reflection of the viaduct and neighbouring lights on the River Nidd is a sight to behold. How fortunate we are to live in such a wonderful town!

My Consort, Dr. Richard Hassall and I, wish all in Knarborough a very Merry Christmas and every happiness in the coming year."

The Mayor of Knarborough,
Councillor Margy Longhurst

It's been a busy few months for our town and council with the launch of the new Mayor of Knarborough's ITG White Badge Town Guiding course, our town's annual Remembrance Day parade and service at the War Memorial, and our ever popular antidote to Black Friday, Knarborough's 'Bright Friday' Christmas Lights Switch-On event.

In this winter newsletter we bring you updates and reports about some of the things that KTC and our town councillors have been involved in, local news and events of interest for residents.

Thank you for reading!

*Knarborough
Town Council*

In this newsletter you can expect:

The Mayor of Knarborough's Town Guides

KTC Event Reports

KTC and Town News

Mint Garth Play Area Improvement

SCAN ME





LAUNCH EVENT- COURSE DIRECTOR SARAH COWLING AND THE MAYOR CLLR MARGY LONGHURST SHARE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER TOUR GUIDE

The Mayor of Knaresborough's - ITG White Badge Town Guiding Training Course

In Spring 2025, Knaresborough will have an exciting new attraction to offer visitors and locals alike. You will be able to enjoy a free guided highlights tour with The Mayor of Knaresborough's Town Walking Tours.

Knaresborough Town Council has teamed up with the Institute of Tourist Guides (ITG) to offer an in-depth course, leading to a well-respected award – The ITG White Badge – a sign of quality and professionalism within the guiding world.

The Mayor of Knaresborough Cllr Margy Longhurst shares this update:

After a highly successful Launch Event in October, eleven applicants were interviewed and offered places on the Institute of Tourist Guiding's White Badge training course, to become the first Mayor of Knaresborough's Town Guides. The three interviewers were delighted at the high calibre of all the volunteers who will make great ambassadors for our town.

The team had their first meeting at a welcome party at Mayor Margy's home on 30th November. Their mutual love of Knaresborough and its wonderful history shone through, and they are all eagerly anticipating starting their training on January 8th.

The intensive course will entail lectures and site visits to improve their knowledge of the town and teach them skills to become the best of professional walking tour guides. Their final examinations will be completed at the beginning of May 2025.

Once qualified, the new guides will provide free walking tours for tourists and the local population on a regular basis. They will be an asset to support our town market and local businesses by meeting and greeting coaches and helping out at special Town Council events.



SOME OF THE TRAINEE TOWN GUIDES MEET WITH MAYOR MARGY LONGHURST BEFORE THE COURSE STARTS IN JANUARY 2025



Remembrance Sunday 2024

Large numbers gathered to pay their respects in Knaresborough, despite a rather grey and dreary day, for the town's annual Remembrance Sunday parade and service at the war memorial on Sunday 10th November.

Following a church service at St John's Church, our traditional Remembrance parade which is headed by the Knaresborough branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) standard, made its way up the High Street to the Castle grounds to the town's war memorial.

This year marked the 25th year that Mr Paul Darley has been a Standard Bearer for the Knaresborough Branch of the RBL.

The parade was joined by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mr. S Theakston and Mrs C Theakston, the Mayor of Knaresborough Cllr Margy Longhurst and her consort Mr R Hassall, freemen and forces, Knaresborough Town Councillors and NYC Councillors, the clerk to the council, past mayor and Mayoress's, civic guests and military personnel (those currently serving and also veterans).

The service was lead by Revd Garry Hinchcliffe and accompanied by Knaresborough Silver Band.

One particularly poignant moment during the service at the war memorial was seeing John, a Polish soldier, aged 103, who had served at Monte Cassino in 1944, laying a wreath to remember his fallen comrades.

KTC has a long history of working with the Knaresborough branch of the Royal British Legion and we'd like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to all of the groups, individuals and organisations involved in making the services and parade the poignant act of remembrance our town is so proud of.

KTC would also like to say a special thank you to the 1953 Knaresborough Squadron Air Training Corps and the RBL for installing the poppy display at Knaresborough Castle as part of the Remembrance Sunday Commemorations.

Thank you to Sharon Van Zelst for the photographs.





THE MAYOR OF KNARESBOROUGH MARGY LONGHURST WITH KNARESBOROUGH TOWN CRIERS



SANTA WITH THE CROWDS AS THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS ARE SWITCHED ON

Bright Friday - Christmas Lights Switch-On

The last Friday in November has become better known as Black Friday. 'Bright Friday' is Knaresborough's antidote to the consumerism of this and marks the start of the town's festive calendar of events. It is a celebration of light, positivity and community to reflect the true meaning of Christmas in our town. Bright Friday has become a cherished part of the town's festive calendar.

This year KTC's new trailer stage was used for the first time at Bright Friday. The trailer stage is a mobile stage equipped with sound and lighting systems, seating, and signage, and is hoped to be a resource for local groups and events in the town. The trailer provided a fantastic stage for the evening's performances.

We were thrilled to see so many people joining us for this special festive community event, and KTC would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in making it such a success. Bright Friday happens each year thanks to an amazing team of individuals and organisations working together with KTC. Special thanks go to:

The set-up team; KTC Councillors, The 1953

Knaresborough Squadron Air Training Corps for marshalling the Light Parade, volunteer stewards and marshals from Knaresborough Revolution, The Rotary Club of Knaresborough and Knaresborough Lions Club.

Knaresborough Library for staying open late to support 'Bright Friday' and provide a warm welcoming space, and the Friendship and Leisure Centre for hosting St John Ambulance who provided first aid cover for the event.

Orb House Band, Knaresborough Choral Society, and Knaresborough Silver Band for wonderful performances which got us all feeling festive with beautiful Christmas tunes.

Gracious Street Methodist Church for hosting the lantern making workshop before the Light Parade, and to the Rev Garry Hinchcliffe and Knaresborough Town Criers for leading the light parade, the Mayor Margy Longhurst, and Mike Atkinson for being our brilliant MC on the night, and of course Santa for making a special appearance to help us switch on our Christmas Lights!



CROWDS GATHER



TOWN COUNCILLOR STEWARDS



COUNCILLOR AND EVENT ORGANISER HANNAH GOSTLOW WITH KNARESBOROUGH TOWN CRIERS



The Great Knaresborough Christmas Tree Festival 2024

This year KTC were thrilled to have a tree in The Great Knaresborough Christmas Tree Festival at St John's Church.

KTC staff and Councillor Shan Oakes created the 'TreeMendous Town' trio of trees to celebrate all the gifts Knaresborough offers, and provide examples of how you don't have to spend money to make your home feel festive. The trees and decorations are all either hand-made, Fairtrade, natural, old or 'found', secondhand, and passed on objects.

Visitors to the festival are invited to share ideas and thoughts about what is important to them in the town; whether it's the rich heritage, the wonderful nature that surrounds us, the businesses or shops, the community spirit, and then to hang their idea on one of the trees.

In our TreeMendous Town display KTC hopes to demonstrate how thoughtful use of resources can help us think about how we can be kind to nature, our environment and each other this festive season.



YOUTH COUNCIL MEETS FOR FIRST TIME IN KTC CHAMBER ROOM

Knaresborough Youth Council formed

A new Youth Council has been formed in Knaresborough, led by Inspire Youth Yorkshire and Yorkshire Create, with support from North Yorkshire Council. The Youth Council met for the first time in October in the Town Council Chamber room at Knaresborough House.

A few town councillors are also supporting this new initiative, facilitating youth voices in our town, and we look forward to hearing more as the Youth Council establishes itself and shares its progress.



Knaresborough Christmas Market

Due to storm Darragh, the Knaresborough Christmas Market Team made the hard decision to postpone the Christmas Market for a week, to the weekend of 14 and 15 December. The team have worked tirelessly, so that this festive and much loved event could go ahead.

The market was a wonderful success, with fantastic stalls and performances over the two days, and a stunning firework finale. KTC extend a huge 'Thank you' to the Christmas Market Team and all involved.



Police and Community Liaison Group Update

The Police and Community Liaison Group, organised and chaired by Councillor Kathryn Davies, met again on the 2nd of October.

The Group is made up of local police officers, local councillors, community hubs, local school representatives and youth workers. The meeting was also attended by local councillors from Boroughbridge Town Council who were keen to see how this group was working in Knaresborough. It was agreed that they could adapt the terms of reference of this group for their own police and community liaison meetings.

Minutes from the meeting can be found on the KTC website. Below is a brief summary:

- Anti-social behaviour incidents in the Town have decreased by 20% in the last 12 months, which is a significant achievement for the local police working in partnership with the community and this group.
- Operation Traffic had been carried out over the summer outside schools in the area and was productive in terms of raising public awareness on speeding.
- A retail crime week operation was planned for mid-October, and the police were put in touch with the local business collective to help coordinate this.
- Known persons in the local area were targeted by the police to disrupt drug activity. As a result, one person is currently on remand for associated offences and will be sentenced soon. If you have any information relating to the supply of drugs, please call 101, or report anonymously via Crimestoppers.
- The Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) and action plan for Knaresborough was shared with the Group.
- A rise in opportunistic burglaries in the area means that residents continue to be advised not to leave valuable items or car keys on show in your homes or vehicles.
- Inspire Youth Yorkshire reported that they have a collaboration with Harrogate Town FA running until September 2025, and that the junior youth group, work in schools and after school drop ins on Fridays are all going well.
- The local police team will be showing a visible presence in the town and organised events in the run up to Christmas, to support local businesses and members of the public.
- Residents and business owners alike continue to be encouraged to sign up to community messenger

www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk/



KTC Flood Response and Sandbag Information

In September Knaresborough once again experienced heavy rainfall which affected the homes of some residents. Cllr James Pickard who leads KTC's Emergency Community Resilience Team, was busy monitoring his email account and responding to people in the community experiencing problems caused by the heavy rain. James delivered KTC's supply of sandbags to properties at risk of flooding, helping to divert the water and avoid serious flood damage.

If you need emergency assistance during heavy rain please contact Cllr James Pickard who leads Knaresborough Town Council's Emergency Community Resilience Team, and we will try to assist you.

James.pickard@knaresboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

North Yorkshire Council (NYC) has simplified its approach to supporting communities who need access to sandbags during a flood incident.

From the beginning of October 2024 if a member of public requires access to sandbags they should Google Sandbags North Yorkshire or use this link:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/environment-and-neighbourhoods/flooding/request-sandbags

If there is an immediate need for sandbags, then you can call NYC on 0300 131 2 131 and either say 'Sandbag' when prompted or follow the instructions.



Community Grants Update

Small Amount Left in Grant Budget:

There is a small amount remaining in the community, small and green grant budgets for 2024-25.

KTC welcome applications for the 20 January 2025 Council Finance meeting when grants will be considered. The deadline for applications is 8 January.

All details about grants and how to apply can be found on the KTC website. To complete an application for either the small, green or community grants fund you can download the application form on the KTC website

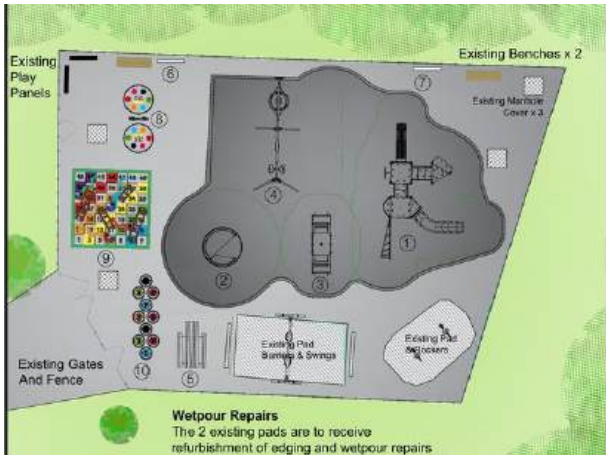
www.knaresboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

Community Grants Recently Awarded:

KTC have supported various events in the town over the festive season this year.

Due to changes at NYC meaning event road closures must now be done by traffic management companies, KTC has supported both the Christmas Market and Christmas Eve Nativity play with Community Grants awarded to cover the costs of road closures. KTC also gave a grant to Mind (Harrogate District) towards their Mental Elf Fun Run, which was raising money for their new children and young people mental health service.





Mint Garth - Play Area Improvement Project

Mint Garth play area update:

Cllr Hannah Gostlow and Cllr Andy Bell visited the Mint Garth play area located on the Hay a Park estate at the start of November and were happy to see that the work to refresh the play area had started.

The new design will make much better use of the space and has a lot of new play equipment aimed at younger children.

Hannah and Andy have worked with North Yorkshire Council on this project and look forward to the official opening in the new year once it is complete.

This improvement to the play area is being funded by "Section 106" / "Commutated sums" money that came from the developer of the estate in 2007 and is not connected to the new Water Lane plans. This money had to be spent specifically on the Mint Garth play area and would have gone back to the developer if not spent.

Commutated sums explained:

Commutated Sums are paid by Developers to mitigate the impact of development in the local area particularly when the specific facilities are not being included within that Development.

There are seven Parks and Open Spaces typologies which can "accumulate" commuted sums to specific sites. These are identified as being the closest to the development which also require some improvements (assessed by Quality Assessment).

NYC Parks and Grounds Team act as a consultee during the initial planning application when the sites requiring improvement are identified. Once planning is approved a Legal Agreement is signed which includes the allocation of Commuted Sums to the specific sites/typologies and the payment process is agreed.

Payment is made to North Yorkshire Council who coordinate the spend of Commuted Sums across North Yorkshire.



Knareborough Town Councillors Out and About, and Here to Help



Cllr Helen Westmancoat

Well done to Cllr Helen Westmancoat on her recent skydive raising money for local organisation Resurrected Bites.

This brings Helen's number of skydives to a total of 61!



Cllr Andy Bell

In August this year a film crew visited Knareborough and filmed an advert.

Our Deputy Mayor Cllr Andy Bell had great fun being involved and played a small part in the advert that was released to Instagram.



Town Councillors Helping Residents

All of our Town Councillors are currently helping residents with various problems and issues that they are facing. There's a lot of hard work going on dealing with intricate and complex issues on behalf of local residents.

KTC encourage residents to get in touch with their local councillor should you need help.

You can find out who your local councillor is and which ward each Town Councillor covers on the KTC [website](#), where you will also find contact email addresses for all Town Councillors.

Scan the QR code to visit the website.



www.knareboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllrs Matt Walker and Andy Bell

On 1st December Town Councillors Matt Walker and Andy Bell took part in Mind in Harrogate District's Mental Elf 5K fun run in Knareborough which was raising money for Mind's new children and young people mental health service.

KTC also supported this event through a community grant.



Community and Town Events

Cllrs James Pickard, Hannah Gostlow, Mark Flood and Kit Lacey with KTC staff and local organisations including Knareborough Lions Club, The Rotary Club of Knareborough, Knareborough Revolution, and The Knareborough branch of the RBL, to put on events in the town throughout the year.



Looking Ahead To 2025

Town Event Calendar

Knaresborough Town Council is looking to create a town event calendar on our website, a place to sign post residents and visitors to Knaresborough to your event websites and social media pages for further details about what's happening in our town throughout the year.

If you or an organisation you're linked with organise an event in the town and would like it to be included, please send the event name, date and a website link or email for further details to

community@knaresboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk



2025 is already shaping up to be a busy year with exciting opportunities for Knaresborough and the Town Council.

We look forward to the town's annual event calendar and also celebrating and commemorating some historic anniversaries in the coming year. Be sure to keep an eye on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for news and updates from KTC in the new year.

Greetings from Knaresborough Town Council, Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.



Thank you for reading!

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