

PORTRAIT OF HARROGATE

Andy Stansfield

The Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate was little more than two quiet hamlets until William Slingsby discovered a chalybeate spring in 1571 on the edge of the expanse of common land today known as The Stray. Known as the Tewit Well, it was widely thought that its mineral waters would heal sickness and, with the discovery of further mineral springs along with a sulphur well for bathing, Harrogate's future status was assured.

With the construction of The Royal Pump Room in 1842, the arrival of the railway in 1848, and the joining together of the villages of High and Low Harrogate in 1860 by the creation of Victoria Avenue, the town was beginning to expand substantially from its population of 4000 in the 1830s. By the end of the nineteenth century a further mineral water source, the Magnesia Well, had been discovered and The Royal Baths had been opened. The latter closed in 1969, a year after the NHS ceased to fund treatment there, but by this time Harrogate's reputation was too well established to prevent its continued existence as a place to visit in order to improve one's well-being.

Today Harrogate is not simply a pleasant place to be, but also a thriving conference and exhibition venue. Its intriguing history and its colourful present are portrayed by Andy Stansfield's stunning images which capture the essence of this historic spa town.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andy Stansfield is a Lancashire-based photographer and author who specialises in travel, outdoor leisure and events. He has written and illustrated numerous titles for Halsgrove, including *Portrait of Southport* as well as a number of photography books.

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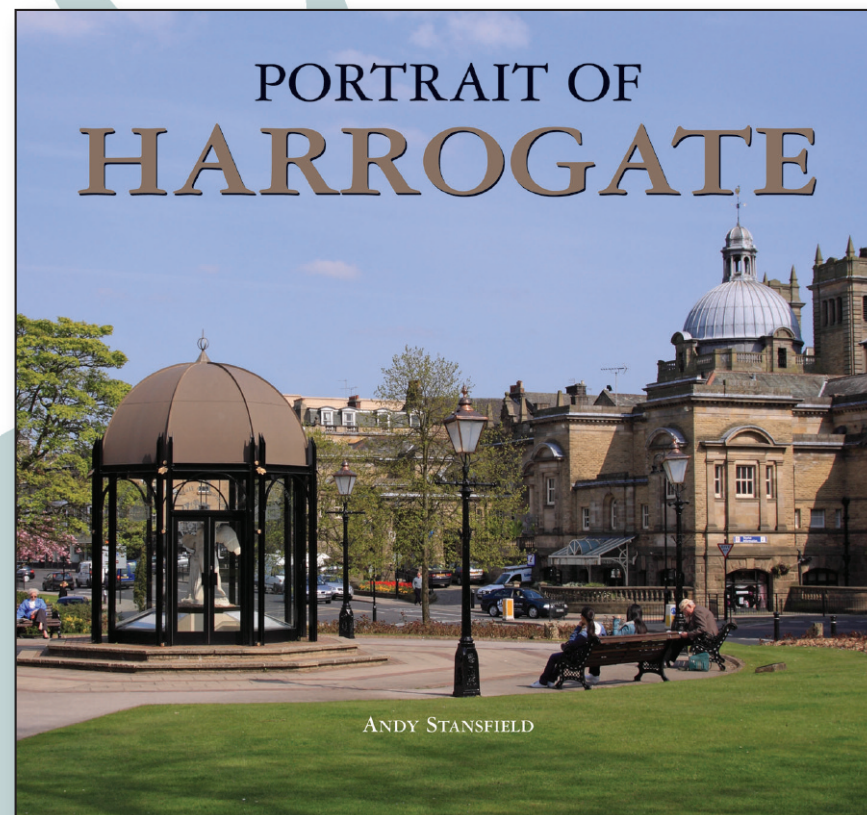
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These statues perched on top of the Victoria Shopping Centre enjoy an unparalleled view over Harrogate.



Almscliff Crag. To the south-west of Harrogate this crag stands just outside the village of North Ripton and forms the destination for a popular short walk.



The Royal Pump Room, Harrogate's original sulphur well.



This is perhaps Knaresborough's best known vista, taking in the River Nidd and the railway viaduct, from the grounds of the castle.

Example of a double-page spread.



Harrogate
The underground entrance to the Hotel du Vin & Bistro on West Park.



West Park
Regency town houses flanked by colourful gardens line West Park, which leads towards The Sney from the war memorial.



Valley Gardens café. A popular venue winter or summer, the café in Valley Gardens is shaded by a wide variety of trees. Behind it lies a pool for model boat enthusiasts.