



## **BEVERLEY & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY**

### **NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2014**

#### **BEVERLEY AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the Beverley and District Civic Society Annual General Meeting will be held at St Mary's Church Parish Hall, North Bar Within, Beverley on **TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2014 AT 7.30PM**. Nomination forms for office in the Society or vacancies on the Executive Committee can be obtained from, and should be returned to, Mrs Pamela Hopkins, 6 York Road, Beverley HU17 8DP, tel 01482 861836, by **Tuesday 30th September 2014**.

#### **Agenda**

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To approve the minutes of the 2013 AGM.
3. Matters arising.
4. To receive the Annual Report.
5. To receive the Treasurer's Report and receive and approve the Annual Accounts.
6. To receive the Membership Secretary's Report.
7. To elect the following Officers of the Society: President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer.
8. To elect members of the Executive Committee.  
In accordance with the Constitution of the Society, the under-mentioned members will retire at the AGM but will be eligible for re-election:  
Harry Flynn, Mike Guest, Jill Jones, Dick Lidwell, Angela Mulford, Sandra Ryan
9. Any other business.

**NOTE :** The under-mentioned will continue to serve on the Executive Committee for at least another year:

Sylvia Ashwell, John Bird, Barbara English, Michael Hildyard, Pamela Hopkins, Rosemary Major, Berna Moody, Gerald O'Callaghan, Sandy Patience, Dennis Peckett, Wendy Usher-Bacon.

#### **World War One**

The first weekend in August saw a major event planned and executed by Councillor Martin Cox and Beverley Town Council to commemorate 'The Guns of August', the outbreak of the First World War. On 1 August Rob Bell's History Troupe performed his play based on our Hengate War Memorial, 'Statues Cradling Toys'. On Sunday 3 August Councillors Margaret Pinder and Martin Cox read, at a moving ceremony at the Market Cross, all the names of the 441 Beverley men known to have died in WWI. And finally on Monday 4 August there was a candle-lit ceremony by the War Memorial Garden in Hengate, when local people read poems, some by national poets, some from the Beverley Guardian, as, with appropriate music by the Beverley Band the sun set, and we remembered the 4 August 1914 when the sun set on the last day of peace and the Foreign Secretary said, 'the lamps are going out all over Europe'. Our Society was involved in the planning of these events, in particular Berna Moody sought out poetry in the pages of the Beverley Guardian, and we also arranged the provision of the horsemen and the pigeons. The picture shows the civic party after the Reading of the Names.



photograph by Bill Gray

## **An Executive Committee Update**

Some of our members have asked us to tell you more about the work of the committee, and to do so more regularly. I have volunteered to write this first quarterly report as a summary of recent activity. But I'm also making here an explanation of how the Committee works. In future, all being well, each Newsletter issue will include a report by one or other of our sub-groups, which will be more current in the detail of its last quarter's work.

This task has proved to be surprisingly difficult. How to pitch it? What do most members know already? How to describe months and months of ongoing work in certain areas. without causing the reader to jump to the end? How much detail, in fact, do our members want, or need, to know?

However, along the way, I've come across some rather startling misconceptions out there, strange views of how we are said to operate. I really would like to set the record straight. So bear with me, as they say, if some of this sounds rather jejune. (And you can always skip those bits.) Here goes:

**1. How we structure our work.** The Executive members meet monthly, throughout the year, and discuss together the tasks agreed at the previous meeting; take report-back from the ongoing work of the various sub-groups; and share views on new issues of concern relating to Beverley's historical structure and/or proposed development. We try to reach a consensual view before we take any action, or spend our money, so, when necessary, we vote. (Please note – when necessary, we vote!)

**2. The sub-groups.** These are devoted to various ever-present, on-going issues, which need plans and actions between the monthly meetings. They run by emails/meetings between sub-group members, much inter-agency exchange, and deal with the various tasks agreed on by the whole committee. 3 or 4 committee members make up each sub-group, although there is some cross-over. Advice from a person with the appropriate historical, planning, or local authority knowledge is sought as required. These sub-groups, and their present foci, are:

- **The Development Group.** All large planning matters which affect Beverley's infra-structure and conservation.
- **The Project Group.** The exploration, and moving on, of various Civic Society projects, often with other agencies and/or the Local Authority.
- **The Public Meetings group.** Who will come and talk, and when, and on what?
- **Social Events group.** Annual all-together activities for members. Long term plans. Volunteers are always needed.
- **"House keeping"**. Certain committee maintenance tasks are undertaken by individuals. They report to the Executive monthly. These are the roles

of the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary, the Minute Secretary, and the Membership Secretary. There is a Chair and a Vice Chair.

**3. Summary of recent activities, and results.** You must all have seen the signs and results of many months of certain Civic Society activities, all of it in collaboration with other agencies:

- **The Georgian Festival.** List of events for the period September 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> are at the T.I.C and around the town. Lots of hard work there by ourselves and the Renaissance group.
- **The WW1 Commemorations.** And weeks and months of work of work by Beverley Town Council, and in particular Martin Cox, was realised over the long weekend of August 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> in Beverley centre, in the churches, and in the Memorial gardens. It was well reported in the local papers. (And indeed, if you were in the Hengate Memorial Gardens for the event on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>, you will no doubt have viewed the recently repaired monument, nicknamed “Statue with Toys”, a project undertaken by an Executive member with others during a good part of last year.)
- **New development on old hospital site.** This is in its final stages of fine-tuning prior to build. The development sub-group has been – still is – deeply involved in trying to assist the thoughtful developer in providing an area of housing appropriate for this prestigious site. Attempts to save the small listed building appear to have failed; but development of the old Workhouse is appropriate. The lay-out overall seems good. Plenty of trees planned!
- **Our web-site.** Yes, in hand again. I know. We’ll get there.

### **Big ongoing Concerns**

Some matters are not one-issue events. These matters are very, very hard to address. Our views are given forthrightly, during the consultation processes, and by other means. They are shared by other interested bodies: e.g. town council, conservation bodies, architectural/town planning bodies. There seems **nowhere** to lodge a loud cry of protest that can be heard. You will all know of these concerns:

***A proposed development of 1,500 houses to the south of the town – and more intended for other sites elsewhere over the next decade. Over-development, surely?***

***The almost total neglect of listed houses, and the conservation area, within central Beverley. The unchecked epidemic of plastic windows defacing the appearance of long period terraces. Killing the golden goose for tourism, surely?***

It can be very disheartening, trying to work with, and through, a Local Authority over-stretched in many areas; with numerous emails unanswered, and arranged meetings often re-arranged, often cancelled. We sympathise. But this gem of an historic town is well worth caring for. And that's why we keep going. DO VOLUNTEER, or think of offering your services to our committee. Monitor, advise, and protect, alongside us. DO.

Sylvia Ashwell

For and on behalf of the Beverley and District Civic Society Executive Committee

### **The Beverley Georgian Festival**

You will notice things going on in the press, as the Festival nears its opening. We have already tasted the Beverley bun (winner, Trish of Sugar n' Spice, recipe in the Beverley Advertiser and very delicious). Our famous chocolatier from the White Rabbit has just won a very prestigious national award, and will be showing how it is done on Wednesday 17 September. On 2 September there is the launch of the new book, *Cabbages & Kings: Saturday Market, Beverley* by Barbara English, Ann Bennett and Susan Neave, published by the Civic Society jointly with the Georgian Society for East Yorkshire (£6). The same evening is the launch of a time line of Georgian Beverley and the world, in the Treasure House, and also the 1714 ale created for the Festival by Atom Beers. Then on 13 September the Festival proper opens, with Heritage Open Day when many houses and gardens will be open, and many, many other events. We are very grateful to all those who have agreed to open their properties, and to the volunteer stewards who have made this event possible.

Heritage Open Day is free to all –for some of the other Festival events you need a ticket, from the Tourist Information Centre in Butcher Row. Things are selling out fast so hurry...

Barbara English

### **Beverley and the Academy of Urbanism**

In August we learnt that the Academy of Urbanism had shortlisted Beverley as one of three places to be considered as the Great Town of Great Britain (the other towns are Bury, Lancs, and Aberystwyth). Beverley Renaissance Partnership, to which the Civic Society is attached, were given the task, at very

short notice, of preparing the submission to show why Beverley should be Number One Great Town (the answers are not known until November 2014).

The Society, with its long history of defence of the town, was deeply involved in both the submission and the day visit on 11th August by six highly professional judges. We wish that the submission could be made available to all our members, as it sets out so many of our ambitions for the town: it was a great example for us of working with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, who wanted this title as much as we did, and on this occasion turned to us for support. We all gained from the experience.

It was easy to demonstrate many of the great things about Beverley. One of the judges, for instance, was astonished that we had found over 100 stewards for the Heritage Open Day (13th September) and said that his town could never have done that. We pointed out, on the town walk, just how much had been done by the Civic Society and other voluntary groups – the Elwells, the Town Trail, the Lanes project, the Coronation Gardens, the War Memorial in Hengate, the Georgian Quarter, the new theatre, Beverley in Bloom, the Friary. The Eastgate site was of particular interest, and a paragraph on that is included below. The judges went outside the town centre to look at the commons, Coltman Avenue and Swinemoor Estate, the Grovehill site, the Flemingate site and so on. It was a busy day. It was not easy to find out what the judges were thinking.

**The most significant warning they expressed, of which we should all take heed – was amazement that the individual blocks of the huge housing developments to the north and south of the town were being waved through the outline planning process, without any overall plan for house types, design principles, layout, services, or recreational areas. If we can no longer prevent the flood of new houses, surely we can control what we are going to get?**

This leads on to a discussion of the best planned development within the town: Eastgate, where the visit was led by Mike Hildyard, our Vice Chairman.  
Barbara English

### **The Eastgate Site**

The visit of the Academy of Urbanism assessors to Beverley provided the opportunity to revisit the design concepts and the cooperation between developer, architects and planners which created this mixed housing scheme on a former contaminated industrial site with historic and of archaeological implications.

The assessors were extremely interested in the process of initial consultation, development of design concepts and the mechanics of bringing together interested parties.

The final scheme and its implementation, in the shadow of the Minster, set high environmental standards and in the words of Dick Swaine, one of the lead architects: *"Co-operation allowed instant decision. Serendipitous opportunities were grasped. Parts of buildings were taken down and improved."* It was a far cry from the grim-faced inflexible world of binding contracts, penalty clauses and the restrictive controls of much conservation legislation. The Eastgate scheme evolved as Beverley evolved, developing an innate discipline acknowledging a sense of place.

Since the completion of the scheme, over 20 years ago, this sense of place is easily recognised in the atmosphere of maturity both in the growth of the landscaping and the evident pride that the occupiers take in maintaining their properties. In the light of today's resistance to mixed development of private, rented flats and sheltered accommodation in close proximity, it is an example of how with careful design and consultation social and private housing can be integrated.

Michael T Hildyard.



## Forthcoming Public Meetings & Events...

All meetings are held in St Mary's Parish Hall, North Bar Within, Beverley.

Tuesday 9th September 7.30 pm.

Michael Flowers

A Year of Swinemoor birds

Tuesday 14th October 7.30 pm.

AGM and Open Forum

Friday 24th October

Annual Dinner

See application form with this newsletter

Civic Society Study Day – Friday 7th November 2014

'Houses, Architects and Gardens in Georgian Beverley'

The speakers will be:

David and Susan Neave: 'Houses and People of Georgian Beverley'.

John Wilton Ely: 'Lord Burlington and William Kent: a Georgian Yorkshire partnership'.

Lenore Greensides: ' Examples of Georgian gardens in Beverley and Beyond.

Tuesday 11th November 7.30 pm.

Mark Feather

Woodland Trust

Tuesday 9th December 7.30 pm

Councillor Margaret Pinder

On becoming a political woman

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**Please send material by email if possible: this saves re-typing.** However, if you do not use email, no matter – all contributions and letters, no matter how brief, are welcome. **The deadline** for copy to be included in the Winter 2014 Newsletter is **Sunday 30th November 2014.**

33% of our membership now receive this newsletter in electronic form via email, thus saving valuable Civic Society resources for other use, not to mention the distributors' shoe-leather and time. It is appreciated that many do not use email or prefer to receive their newsletter in hard copy form, but if you are able and willing to join the e-circulation list, please could you let me know via the above email address. Many thanks.

**Beverley & District Civic Society 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner**  
**Cerutti '2' Station Square Beverley**  
**Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 at 7.00 for 7.30pm**  
**Guest speaker – Councillor Martin Cox - Mayor of Beverley 2013**

**MENU**

- A. Smoked Haddock Fishcake with a Curry Sauce
- B. Avocado and Bacon Salad
- C. Sweet Potato and Ginger Soup
- D. Baked Mushrooms with a Stilton Sauce on a Bed of Spinach
- E. Smoked Salmon and Prawn Cocktail

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- F. Chicken Breast with Lemon Butter and Parsley
- G. Cerutti '2' Fish Stew
- H. Pan Fried Pork Fillet with Redcurrant and Rosemary
- I. Baked Salmon with a Pea and Mint Sauce
- J. Roast Pepper with Goats Cheese
- K. Trio of Fish ~ Fried or Grilled (Please indicate preference.)

*All served with Seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes*

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- L. Mini Trio of Desserts
- M. Cheese

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Tea or Coffee

Cost : £30.00 per person (inc VAT & Gratuity)

□.....

Cut off this section and send to **Wendy Usher-Bacon, Beaver House, 30 Queensgate, Beverley, HU17 8NW** together with a cheque made payable to **Beverley & District Civic Society** . Please use the letters above to indicate your choice and include a S.A.E. if you require a receipt. Forms and payment must be received before the 18<sup>th</sup> of October.

Wendy can be contacted on 07970 886479 with any special requirements.

Name (as you wish it to appear on place setting)	Starter	Main Course	Dessert	Special Diet

My contact telephone number is:-

Tables will sit 4, 6 or 8. If possible I would like to sit with:-

(Please continue on reverse if necessary)

**BEVERLEY AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY**

**STUDY DAY**

**FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**

**HOUSES, ARCHITECTS AND GARDENS  
IN 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY BEVERLEY**

**PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY**

10.00 Registration

10.15 David and Susan Neave; *Houses and People of Georgian Beverley*

11.15 Coffee

11.45 John Wilton Ely;

*Lord Burlington and William Kent: A Georgian Yorkshire Partnership*

12.45 Lunch (own arrangements)

14.00 Lenore Greensides; *Georgian Gardens in Beverley and Beyond*

15.00 Tea and Open discussion

15.30 Close

Cost: £12 per person

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If you would like to take part in this study day please complete the form below and send it, together with a cheque made out to 'Beverley and District Civic Society', with a stamped addressed envelope, to Pam Hopkins, 6 York Road, Beverley HU17 8DP.

Name (capital letters please).....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Tel;.....

I would like to apply for .....tickets for the study day on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Signature.....