

Newsletter:

April 2021

www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk



Chairman's Remarks

April always brings the feeling of approaching Spring, and this year it is all the more welcoming after our long winter of uncertainty. As I write this, the sun is out, daffodils are blooming, blossoms flowering, and I hear the birds singing being busy with their nest building. Let us look forward to, hopefully, a more promising summer.

The Society, thanks to its members and Executive, has been as active as ever with its talks programme, behind the scenes discussions on future initiatives, continuing with its shop window display (temporarily restricted in its scope because of building works), and is looking forward to hosting the quarterly Regional meeting of The Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies (YHACS) on Saturday 24th April. This was postponed from last April because of the ongoing crisis, so it will be held 'Virtually'; full details will follow shortly.

Hope you will enjoy reading this Newsletter, and remember we are always interested to receive your feedback.

Happy Easter everyone.

Dick Lidwell

St Mary's Church Mural



Thanks to Emma Garness and St Mary's church for allowing us to reproduce the painting

Last week the community art installation 'Betty The Beverley Beck Snake' was added to the gardens - 300 painted pebbles made by children and families during the pandemic. St Mary's would love people to add more pebbles. Maybe by the end of the summer Betty will be 500 pebbles long!



Planning Matters

Amongst the applications that the Society has commented on last month are two important ones at the entry to the town from the North and West. One is to bring life back into the *Rose and Crown* on the corner of York road and North Bar Without. This Listed Building with its dramatic barge boards decorated with vines and grapes contributes considerably to the street scene. The *Rose and Crown* has an interesting history. Originally it faced onto the York Road before being redesigned in 1931 into what we see today. With thanks to East Riding Archives for the photograph.



There is also an application to restore the listed stone and brick pillars with stone ball finials in the wall of North Bar House, opposite the *Rose and Crown*. The house was erected during the 18th century, so is an even more important historical feature in this visual entry to our town.



Also we are looking forward, hopefully at the end of March, to the removal of the 'temporary' communications mast in the Beverley Arms carpark. We await further news on the progress on the applications for two additional filling stations on the

outskirts of Beverley, and the retirement apartments in Langholm Close.

Dick Lidwell

Society Diamond Jubilee Appeal for Photographs & Newsletters

Our Society is 60 years old this year and we hope to be able to share with you some of our achievements (and perhaps failures) since we were founded in October 1961. We are preparing a brief presentation on some of our achievements for our YHACS (Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies) meeting on 25th April 2021. We will of course share this with all our members, but wondered if you had any thoughts on what our achievements were? We would particularly be pleased to receive any old photographs or newsletters you may care to loan us, which illustrate the issues we have had to address in Beverley, and the surrounding district.

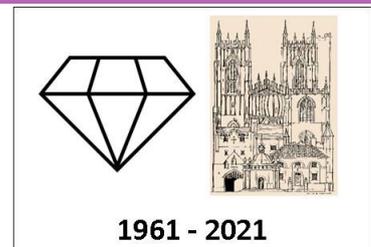
If you have anything you would like to share with us could you please contact:

Chris Burrows email: goodtymeshull@hotmail.com Tel: 01482 866252 or

Barbara English: benglish@newbegin.karoo.co.uk Tel: 01482 881333

We are considering how best to present this information, it could be in a self-guided PowerPoint presentation, a face to face talk at a meeting, a booklet, a shop window display or something else. If you are interested in assisting with this project please contact Barbara or Chris.

Chris Burrows



The Retail Landscape in Beverley is Changing

Coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic the retail landscape in Beverley, like every other market town in the country, finds itself under many pressures. A recent survey of Beverley's main thoroughfare (North Bar to Wednesday Market) identified 31 empty units, which highlights the question I am often asked, "Would you be happy to accept an empty unit rather than another cafe?". Currently my answer would be "yes". One of the key elements to a vibrant high street is having a good "mix". Right now in Beverley I am not going to struggle to get a latte, but I couldn't buy a tennis racket!

Beverley's historically high rents, together with central government's reluctance to review business rates, make many locations in Beverley non-viable to an "indie" trader. Yet these indie retailers fill our beautiful, quirky side streets and those streets do not currently have a single vacant shop. Many say that "Indie" is retail's key to a town's recovery.

In retail, footfall is king. With the East Riding Council's complete workforce working from home, the town's footfall is down, yet with many others working from home we are seeing new faces mid-week, and hopefully the ERYC situation will not affect us disproportionately.

So how do we balance all the needs of a post-covid shopping experience and make Beverley a vibrant place to visit again? Perhaps, when possible, there could be supporting events—a temporary stage for live music, a relaxation on outside seating, more early evening events supported by late night shopping?

Times are changing, let's ensure the heart of Beverley is thriving, support your high street.

Neil Harris, a 5-year independent trader in Beverley.



Butcher Row c.1907

Green Stuff

We are delighted that on 24 February 2021 ERYC passed a motion declaring a Climate Emergency, with excellent recommendations by the review panel: the Council will develop a climate change strategy within 12 months. This welcome news was reported on p.7 of the spring issue of *Your East Riding* with a link to the recommendations.

Less welcome was the piece on p.2 of the same issue, urging all East Riding residents to trim back hedges and trees alongside paths—



that should not be happening now, because in the nesting season from 1 March to

31 August hedges and trees are protected by law.

Your executive is hoping to launch a major tree planting programme. But in the meantime, let us enjoy those splendid trees we have around town, just coming into leaf. If you like to send us via the website a picture of your own favourite single or group of trees (at any season), we will publish the editor's choice in the May newsletter. Out of many trees, for this writer it's the one in front of the Sessions House, cherished for hundreds of years and beautiful in every season.



Calendar 2022



After this year's successful calendar there was a lot of enthusiasm to produce another calendar for 2022. When the Calendar Project Group talked about this, we thought that an April start could ensure a more considered and relaxed approach to the production of another edition and we could take account of the learnings we had made.

We have agreement in principle from the Executive Committee to produce a 2022 Calendar for the Society. I would like to **appeal for members** to join a few members of the Executive on the Calendar group. This would enable the workload to be shared (particularly on sales & distribution) but would enable a few members to get involved in the work of the Exec. with only a limited commitment.

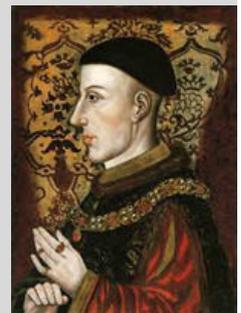
If you might be interested in joining the Calendar Group please get in touch with Chris Burrows via email:

goodtymeshull@hotmail.com 01482 866252.

Chris Burrows

An Anniversary to Remember

Six hundred years ago, in April 1421, King Henry V came to Beverley and went to a High Mass at the Minster, to give thanks for his victory at Agincourt.



Encouraging Wild life in your Garden

Eileen Shone, the Chair of the East Yorkshire Branch of the Hardy Plant Society, gave us an excellent talk on how to increase the chances of wild life frequenting our gardens. The key was habitat, providing an environment which would offer shelter, water and appropriate food for those animals, birds or insects we wanted to encourage; but it was important to remember that these conditions could attract other less welcome species; for example, an ornamental garden fish pond designed to encourage amphibians and insects such as damsel flies, also brought a herring gull who happily fed on the fish. That which attracts hedgehogs, and squirrels will also bring rats and rabbits; similarly plants attractive to butterflies, bees, moths and ladybirds are likely to encourage midges, wasps, and lily beetles.

While most people feed the birds, seeds and nuts do not suit all species. Thrushes feed on snails and slugs, and use of slug pellets can kill them. Wrens thrive on spiders and insects although they can be fed with mealworms. To encourage such species, being a little less tidy is probably all that is required - leaf litter in a corner makes good foraging for both, as do old flower pots left in a shady corner. Similar conditions suit hedgehogs, who also need access to water. If leaving food for hedgehogs, some cat or dog foods are suitable.

Insects need pollen and nectar. To cater for this, it is important to have plants flowering throughout the year. Generally, 'old fashioned' blooms with open flower heads and stronger scents attract more insects and provide much better feeding than many-petalled modern cultivars. Ferns particularly attract moths. Bug 'hotels' are now popular, but insects can over-winter in hollow plant stems, in empty plant pots, and corners of sheds or other buildings.



Large and 'complicated'



BUG 'HOTELS'

Simple and still effective

Shelter areas for mammals and amphibians can be made with small piles of logs and prunings, often in an unobtrusive part of the garden, behind a garage or under a hedge. Nesting boxes encourage smaller birds such as tits, but allowing trees and shrubs to become bushy also creates cover for wildlife and good nesting opportunities.

Light pollution can deter bats and night flying insects, and damage the production of pollen and nectar. If outside lights are necessary, yellow bulbs give warmer light than white. Other things to avoid are herbicides, pesticides, and the use of chicken wire in places where it might trap small animals and birds - if used for training climbing plants, keep it six inches off the ground.

Encouraging wildlife becomes self-perpetuating - more insects and their grubs produce more food for birds, amphibians and mammals and attract them to the garden, and so the cycle goes on. This talk, at a time when we are beginning a new season's gardening, provided much food for thought. Thank you, Eileen.

SANCTUARY *in* CREATIVITY

The Beverley Puppet Festival Directors have asked us to tell members about their 2021 project called Sanctuary in Creativity, which we are very happy to do. They ask people to submit stories about Beverley that will be used to create a puppetry film: it is a competition for all ages, with the prize of 2 festival passes for the 2022 Puppet Festival. Stories can be shared on a flyer (see website link below), by email, or by audio/video snippets of up to two minutes.



More information at www.beverlypuppetfestival.com/yourstory and any questions please to Kerrin Tatman at beverlypuppetfestival@gmail.com

Closing date for entries is midnight on Thursday 15th April 2021

FUTURE TALK

Zoom—Thursday 8 April 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

The Merchant Guilds, their Processions and their Plays in Medieval Beverley

by Prof. Barbara English

The merchants of Beverley in the middle ages produced plays of scenes from the Old and New Testaments that were performed on pageant wagons rolling through the town. York is famous for its mystery plays: Beverley's are less well known. We explore the evidence for the Beverley plays and the men who made them happen. Barbara English and Kloskk Tyrer are working on a book for the Civic Society called *Foods, Feasts and Festivals in Beverley and the East Riding* to be published later this year, and have found more information about the plays which will be used in this talk.



To book a place on ZOOM please send an email to
goodtymeshull@hotmail.com

The postponed Agincourt talk will now take place, appropriately, in October 2021.

