



Newsletter: January 2022

www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk



Dick Lidwell

Chairman's Remarks



Let us hope that we shall be able to enjoy this year returning to more normality, with the ability to get out and about more to meet each other in meetings and socially. We

look forward to seeing you at our full programme of talks, an excursion and a study day.



Dawn at the Arctic Circle

A New Day, and Year dawns....



Welcome to the New Year...

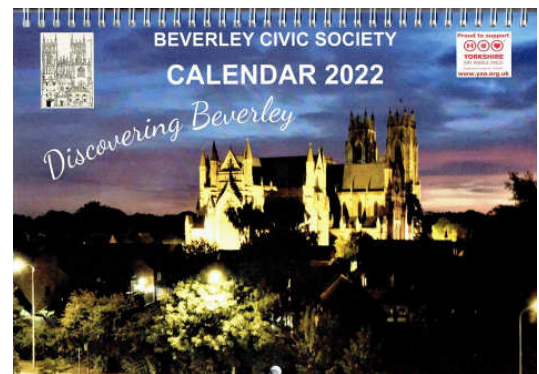
Calendar News

Past

We have a couple of members who did not get a calendar last year and would like one as a souvenir of that first year of the Covid lockdown. If you have finished with your "Deserted Beverley 2021 Calendar" and if it is in very good condition, would you consider passing it on to someone who wants it? Please contact Chris Burrows

Present

We still have a few of this year's "Discovering Beverley 2022 Calendar" available and it is not too late to get one and support the Society and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Also we have available a limited edition of A3 size (twice the size of the calendar) photographs of each month. These are £4 for each month, and we also have laminated copies at £6. If you would like any of these items, please contact Chris Burrows.



Future

We have successfully produced two calendars, should we prepare one for 2023? If you would be interested in working on a project to do this or have any ideas for a theme or a charity please contact Chris Burrows.

goodtymeshull@hotmail.com



Chris Burrows

Planning Matters

Railtrack have submitted a planning application to repair and amend the Grade II listed pedestrian bridge at Beverley Railway station. The plans show the iron bridge being restored but not the wooden superstructure. It is in a poor state of repair having been neglected over the years, and it suffers from the effects of a wind tunnel being produced through the covered station. The Society is concerned at its removal not only as it is part of the listing and a unique period structure especially when seen together with the signal box but also as it will inconvenience passengers crossing the line exposing them to the adverse weather, exacerbated by the wind tunnel. Should the wooden canopy be beyond repair, surely with imagination some sort of sympathetic superstructure from modern materials could be installed. For details Ref: 21/04335/PLB.



Note the grill on the left to allow the signal man to see all the down-platform.

The appeal against refusal of full planning permission for the filling station on Killingwoldgraves Lane by Teckno Developments has been upheld by the Planning Inspectorate. The result being that there are now permissions for two filling stations, with additional retail facilities, in that location adjacent to the roundabout.

The application for the Park and Ride featured last month remains under consideration following many comments made by interested parties including Network Rail and Humberside Police; relating inter alia to security, lighting, type of tree planting and the dedicated bus access road.

Dick Lidwell

Indexing the Newsletters

Last year, I began working on preparing an index for the Society's newsletters. So far, 10 years of newsletters have been indexed (2012-2021 inclusive), and a start made to photographing earlier issues stored at the Treasure House, prior to indexing them. There are, however, some gaps for the period 2002-2008. As it is much easier to create the index by adding the newsletters in chronological order, it would be very helpful if the missing issues could be traced before moving back to the twentieth century ones. Those that are missing are:

- 2008 Summer; Autumn
- 2006 Spring (probably labelled March)
- 2005 Spring/March; Summer/May or June; Winter/December
- 2004 No.137
- 2003 No.136
- 2002 No.131

If you have copies of any of the above, could you please either send them or photographs of them to boward@hotmail.co.uk, or use this email to arrange a time when I could come to photograph them, if that would be easier. Much valuable research has been recorded in the newsletters over the years, and it would be good if a full index could make it accessible for current members and those who come after us. With many thanks for any help you can offer.

Jane Bowen



Town Centre Traffic and Transport



Heavy traffic around the town continues to cause concern with residents expressing their anger at heavy goods vehicles on Keldgate where pedestrian safety and potential damage to the Minster cannot be ignored. During the early part of December a week long survey of traffic numbers was carried out by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on Armstrong Way, Railway Street and Eastgate. It is unfortunate that a more comprehensive survey wasn't performed to include Flemingate, Keldgate and New Walkergate which would have produced a more complete view of traffic movements in this part of town. The Society remains of the opinion that a full study of traffic in the town is needed and that insufficient is being done to deter heavy traffic from Lairgate and Hengate, which is the only way for large vehicles, unable to pass through the North Bar, to leave the town. On a more positive note the Society welcomes the decision to progress the much discussed and delayed Park & Ride scheme.

Mike Farrimond

Richard Miles, Accountant, retiring

At the December committee meeting we bade farewell and thank you to our long serving accountant, Richard Miles of Jackson Robson Licence, who is retiring from the company. Richard was the Society's Accountant for nearly 20 years and has provided an excellent advice and service. The photograph shows Richard being presented with a commemorative certificate and bottle of wine, surrounded by Angela Mulford (former long serving honorary treasurer), Dick Lidwell (chairman) and Mike Farrimond, the current honorary treasurer.



Heritage Open Days for Beverley and District 9, 10, 11 September 2022

This year's theme is Astounding
Inventions.

We are thinking WINDMILLS, GAS,
CLOD CRUSHERS

Like to suggest Beverley inventions?
The folding music stand?

All ideas welcome.



Another Christmas Carol in North Bar Without

Charles Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol' (1843) has never been out of print, and as a story, play and film it has been enjoyed millions of times across the world. It was the first of his Christmas stories, and he went on to write four others. 'The Cricket on the Hearth' (1845) was the third, and was also wildly popular in its time, although now almost forgotten. It tells of the Peerybingle family who had the cricket insect, a penniless toymaker Caleb and his blind daughter Bertha, and Caleb's villainous employer, Tackleton. After misunderstandings, all ends well, and, like Scrooge, Tackleton changes his ways. A feel-good, sentimental Christmas story.



James Elwell's carving of 'The Cricket on the Hearth'
Photo © Bernard Sharp (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Now the Dickens Museum in London is displaying John Leech's sketches for 'The Cricket on the Hearth' for the first time (Guardian 18 December 2021). In Beverley, above the door of



Dickens's Dream
Courtesy of the Charles Dickens Museum, London

Pinewood, 45 North Bar Without, we have an outstanding carving of Caleb making wooden horses with his daughter, created in 1894 by James Edward Elwell, father of the Beverley painter Fred. James Elwell was responsible for 'Tudor' additions to several Beverley houses outside North Bar, as well as works in the Minster and St Mary's.

The carving is sometimes wrongly called 'The Cloister and the Hearth', a famous Victorian novel by Charles Reade about the parents of the Renaissance polymath Erasmus. Our story is quite different.

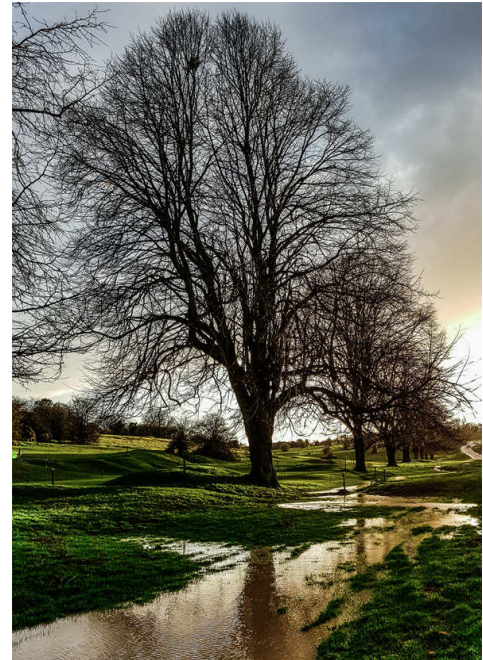
Do stop and study the carving, if you are walking in North Bar Without (west side). The perspective effect is astonishing (look at the door), and every detail worth study. The inscription reads 'WE LIKE TO GO AS NEAR NATURE AS WE CAN FOR SIXPENCE.' Elwell chose to carve Caleb's workshop rather than the cricket or hearth: perhaps he was more interested in the work of his fellow woodworker, the toymaker.

Barbara English Christmas 2021

Lost Streams, Pumps and Privies

Kloskk Tyrer, who works at the Beverley Guildhall for the East Riding Museum Service, began her talk by taking a broad look at all the medieval watercourses that once ran through Beverley, explaining that they have now, mostly, been filled in. She then presented a 'forensic' tour of Beverley's most important lost watercourse, the Walker Beck. Using maps, old illustrations, videos, and photographs, she highlighted some of the lost beck's tell-tale traces which can still be seen on the ground today. Kloskk explained that the Walker Beck continues to run below our feet today, in a new pipe, as part of the town's drainage system, pretty much following its original medieval course. The original medieval course of the beck was covered over and culverted over the years but, even as late as the 19th century, some of it still flowed in the open.

The main source of the Walker Beck was fed by rainwater running off the Westwood Pasture from the higher ground of the Wolds, and from underground springs. All this water merged with the Town Ditch at Bar Dike pool and was carried in the Town Ditch eastwards until it reached the junction of Hengate and Norwood. At this point, the Town Ditch came to an end and the Walker Beck continued southwards through the town as a natural stream.



Floods on Westwood



Bar Dike

At England Springs on Long Lane, the Walker Beck discharged into the Mill Dam Drain and it's still possible to see it today pouring into the drain after there's been a lot of rain. The Mill Dam Drain originally flowed into the Beverley Beck on its south side but it now flows into the head of the Beverley Beck since it was re-routed in 1980.

Kloskk then talked about how the people of Beverley got their clean water

via wells and pumps before moving on to describe how the townspeople disposed of their waste. This was done by dumping it in the streams running through the town, turning them into sewers. In addition, many people used cesspits which leaked and contaminated the clean water supply leading to outbreaks of disease such as cholera. It wasn't until 1889 that a proper sewage system was finally constructed in Beverley, but as late as 1908, the Walker Beck continued to carry sewage.



Highgate Pump

*With thanks to Kloskk Tyrer and Rosemary Major
Images courtesy Kloskk Tyrer*

Low Life at Beverley Races April 1835

This extract comes from the Convict Diary of John Ward, written while a transported prisoner on Norfolk Island, (almost midway between Australia and New Zealand), in 1841. John Ward was born in Hull in 1814, but moved to York with his family in 1830. He recorded that he took to drink, gambling and violence after being thwarted in love by his mother objections. In 1835, he was groom to an officer in the Earl de Grey's Yorkshire Hussars.



April - Went to Beverley Races, was lucky on the betting score, winning three out of four, which gave me still greater scope for my extravagance. I got drunk, was to attend my master at ten that evening to dress for the balls, could not be found for some time. At length I was discovered fast asleep in the stable: went accordingly to attend on my master, sent me to one of the Portmanteaux to get a different kind of stockings - when I tumbled head first over it and anchored in the washing basin. I suppose the novelty of this occurrence took off the offence, for I never heard no mention of it afterwards - next day won my bets, went to the Theatre at night - *Rob Roy, The Gamblers Fate*. Also Singing and Dancing. In returning to my lodging met by two of the "Ladies" of the town, but not taking my fancy I picked a quarrel with them, and for my pains got a good thrashing by two of their "fancy men" as they are called.

The following day John and his master moved on to attend Malton Races. John's career continued to go downhill and in 1838, he was sentenced to 10 years transportation for a burglary at an Inn in Northamptonshire. Coincidentally, before actual transportation, John was held on the prison hulk 'York'. This extract describes his arrival on the 'York'.

We arrived at Portsmouth about 6 o'clock in the morning, took a hasty breakfast, and then took boat for the York Hulk May the second, which by the by was my birth day; and

completed my twenty-fourth year. But I was so much absorbed in melancholy recollection as to forget the day I born. We were ranked in, on the Quarter deck, stood for half an hour, then came the good gentleman, Capt Nicholson, with an old plaid on - down to his heels, his hat squeezed over his ears, and a pair of specks resting on his nose ... something like the good old farmer's dame trudging off to market.

John Ward's diary is in the Collections of the National Library of Australia, and can be browsed on line from the Library's website. There is a published account of Ward's life in Australia - 'Crime, Punishment and Redemption - A Convict's Story' by June Slee, published by NLA, 2014.

Jane Bowen



Another Chapter in Pocklington's History

An illustrated talk by Paula Ware

The excavations, which have uncovered two unprecedented Iron Age chariots and the site of a rare mid-Anglo-Saxon settlement, are rewriting the history books. These discoveries provide a valuable insight into the ritual of Iron Age burials.

Thursday 13 January 2022
7.30 p.m.

St. Mary's Church, Beverley

Non-members welcome £5