

Beverley and District Civic Society

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NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2018

The Executive Committee of the Beverley & District Civic Society

For the quarter ending 31st July 2018 here is the summary of some of the matters discussed by your Executive Committee:

One of the most important subjects for discussion was the need to recruit new members for our Society's Executive Committee. We cover a wide range of subjects and involve ourselves in many tasks as this Newsletter shows. Any Society member can come to an Executive meeting to get a feel of what goes on before volunteering (or choosing not to).

Coronation Gardens. Much work has been done to restore the fountain in the Sensory Garden – permission to work in a former church cemetery, re-laying the water supply piping and trying and eliminate leaks in the water reservoir. Work is ongoing.

History Boards. These tell the history of the area round where they have been sited. North Bar Within has a board, and also Saturday Market is an example. There are others elsewhere in town, and in the Flemingate area, another can be found.

A small group of the Exec looked at Rights of Way (RoW) within the central area of Beverley. In cases of doubt the law now says RoW could be extinguished if they are not on the ERYC map. With the help of Council employees (and the County's store of maps accessible via the internet) and readily called up with knowledgeable operators, many RoW were checked and confirmed.

Membership of our Society is now 209.

Heritage Open Days (HODs) in Beverley this year are Friday 7th and Saturday 8th September. A brochure is obtainable from Beverley Guildhall (open Weds and Fri) and the Treasure House, but see also www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/printable-area-lists/town/Beverley. Once again members of the Executive Committee were involved in setting up these Days, especially Barbara English.

Conservation areas (9 in total) in Beverley are often on the agenda of the Executive Committee since much was preserved with the assistance of Beverley's Civic Society and its members. The Civic Society hopes to enter a competition to show that one of our areas (North Bar Within) is a notable credit to the town.

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Tourist Information Centre (TIC) – this centre was closed recently by the ERYC. The TIC was reopened by the Council in the Treasure House on the first floor. The new location is very difficult to find. Discussions have been held with senior council officials. Visiting tourists are very important to Beverley.

A member of the Executive Committee, Mrs Pamela Hopkins, has on the Society's behalf hosted a group of visitors from York Fine Arts Society and another from Selby Civic Society.

The renovation of the frames and the cleaning of the Fred and Mary (Elwell) picture gallery sited round our town has been carried out. The Beverley Arms has resited its three pictures inside its archway entrance on the left hand side of its facade.

The Beverley Arms hotel reopened for business in August. A small group of Executive Members followed and commented as work proceeded and got to know the architect of the project.

Beverley & District Civic Society Annual General Meeting

Notice is Given that the Beverley & District Civic Society Annual General Meeting will be held in St Mary's Church Hall on Thursday 11th October 2018 at 7.30pm. Nomination forms for office in the Society or vacancies on the Executive can be obtained from, and should be returned to, Mrs Pamela Hopkins, 6 York Road, Beverley HU17 8DP, tel 01482 861836 by Thursday 27th September 2018.

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To approve the minutes of the 2017 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 Secretary's report.
7. To receive the Membership Secretary's report.
8. To elect the following Officers of the Society: President, Vice Presidents, Chairman, Vice-chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer.
9. 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: John Bird, Dick Lidwell, Dennis Peckett, Walter Sweeney, Wendy Usher-Bacon, Nick Waudby.

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

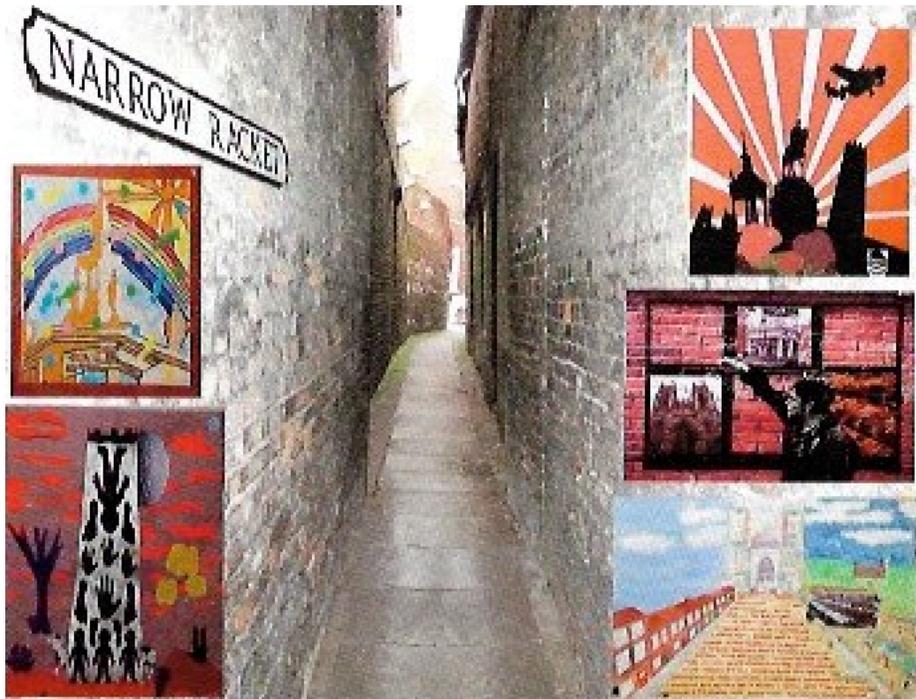
Barbara English, Mike Hildyard, Pamela Hopkins, Rosemary Major, Angela Mulford Gerald O'Callaghan, Sandy Patience, Diana Randle, Ann Spedding.

Neil Harris, at present co-opted, offers himself for membership of the Committee.

The Pictures in Narrow Racket, off Saturday Market.

Members will have noted the disappearance of the paintings in Narrow Racket following the excellent refurbishment of the former Briggs and Powell building for the new Jack Wills store. The side of Briggs and Powell's building onto Narrow Racket originally had windows. However, these were often damaged; so, for increased security, were covered with unsightly cement panels. In 2007, it was decided to improve the appearance of the lane, and as part of this improvement a picture competition was organised by The Civic Society working with The Beverley Renaissance Partnership for art students in Beverley's secondary schools and colleges, and the Burden Road Youth Club.

An illustration of the winning pictures from the leaflet produced at the time:



Fortunately, though slightly damaged during the building works, the pictures were saved from destruction, and have been stored in Jack Wills' staffroom. Thanks to Civic Society members' persistent efforts, negotiations with the owner's agent, and the co-operation of Jack Wills' store manager (who is relieved to regain the space in their staffroom!) the pictures have now been re-erected, and can be appreciated once again by the many pedestrians using this lane from Lairgate to Saturday Market.

Dick Lidwell, Development Group

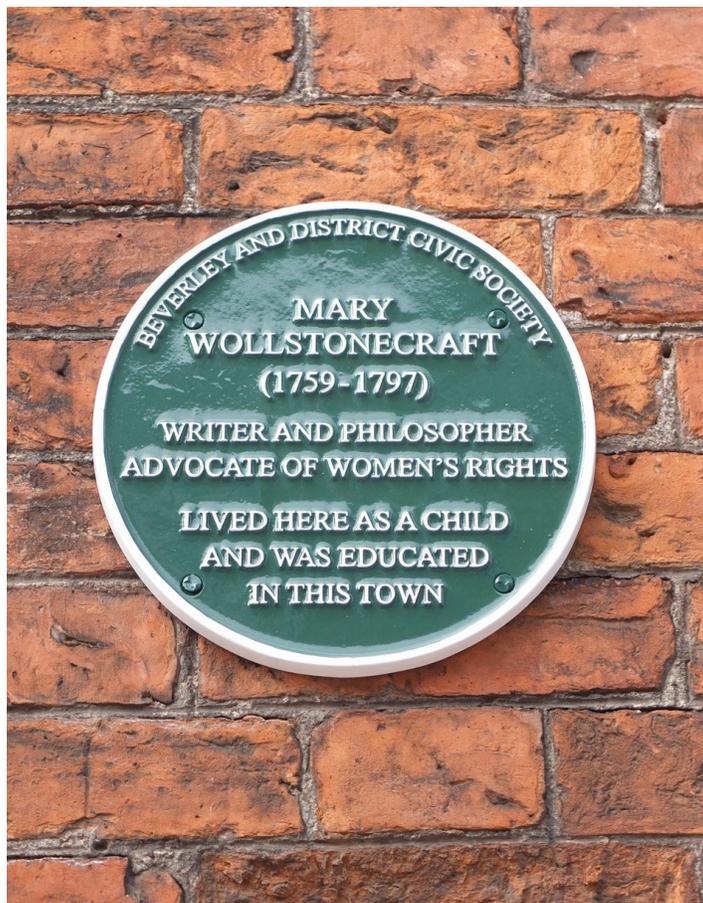
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New Civic Society green plaques Mary Wollstonecraft

Whilst it was well known that Mary Wollstonecraft had lived in Beverley sometime during the 1770's, where the family resided was open to question. However, after much research, and exhaustive examination of rate payments in the East Riding's archives by Barbara English and Susan Neave, it has now been established that the family lived at No 2 Highgate, Beverley. Whilst living there Mary was taught, together with his daughter Jane, by Dr John Arden, in his home. At some time, John Arden lived in a house now rebuilt and incorporated into the southern end of the Beverley Arms.

It is particularly appropriate that the plaque to Mary Wollstonecraft is being erected this year, one hundred years after the partial emancipation of women in the UK. The plaque will be officially unveiled on Thursday 30th August in advance of the Heritage Open Days which take place over the weekend beginning Friday 7th September:

see: <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/printable-area-lists/town/Beverley>



Wednesday Market

The former plaque to Mary Wollstonecraft on the ASK building in Wednesday Market is therefore being replaced, and a new one has been erected commemorating the long and important history of Wednesday Market.



The Society's thanks go to the owners of the two buildings for their co-operation.

Dick Lidwell, Development Group

Forthcoming meetings...
... which will be in St Mary's Parish Hall,
and all meetings will commence at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

Friday 7th & Saturday 8th September 2018

Heritage Open Days

Various venues. All Beverley's Heritage Open Day events are now on line at: www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/printable-area-lists/town/Beverley and the programmes are printed and available, at the TIC.

Thursday 13th September

Prof Barbara English

King Charles I and Beverley

PTO for further details of this meeting...



In the chaotic days of the 1640s, King Charles I tried to enter Hull and failed. His base was Beverley, where he stayed with his sons Charles and James, both later kings of England and Scotland. This talk explores that time, the beginnings of the civil wars, and Beverley in the 1640s.

Thursday 11th October 2017

AGM followed by local film.

Friday 26th October

Annual Dinner

Cerutti2, Station Square, Beverley, 7.00 for 7.30pm. For further details, cost, and booking, please contact Wendy Usher-Bacon, at wendycatlady@wendycatlady.karoo.co.uk, 30 Queensgate, Beverley HU17 8NW by October 19th 2018. Please see the Summer 2018 newsletter for the menu to make your choice before 20th October. Any problems ring 07970 886479.

Thursday 9th November 2016

The Margaret Powell Memorial Lecture

Dr Ben Cowell, FSA Director General of Historic Houses. The talk will discuss the fate of English country houses over the last century. From a time when the future for country house heritage looked bleak.

Thursday 13th December 2016

The Restoration of the Beverley Arms by Rick Bailey.

A guided tour of the re-development of the newly relaunched Beverley Arms Hotel, one of the most historic inns in the town, with a long and distinguished past. Done by Daniel Thwaites brewery, a family firm.

This is the Society's Christmas meeting, followed by a glass and a mince pie.

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Please send material by email if possible: this saves re-typing. However, if you do not use email all contributions and letters, no matter how brief, are welcome.

The deadline for copy to be included in the Winter 2018 Newsletter is **Friday 30th November 2018.**

Please note this date in your diary if you are likely to contribute

Affiliated to Civic Voice and Yorkshire and Humberside Association of Civic Societies