

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2019

BEVERLEY CIVIC SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Beverley Civic Society Annual General Meeting will be held in St Mary's Church Hall on THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2019 at 7.30pm

Nomination forms for office in the Society, or vacancies on the Executive Committee, can be obtained from and returned to Mrs Pamela Hopkins, 6 York Road, Beverley HU17 8DP by 26th September. Nomination forms will also be available at the open meeting on 12th September.

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of AGM 2018
3. Matters arising
4. To receive the Annual Report
5. To receive the Treasurer's Report; 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 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: M. Hildyard, P Hopkins, B English, R Major, G O'Callaghan

NOTE: The under-mentioned will continue to serve on the Executive Committee for at least another year: R Lidwell, A Mulford, A Spedding, D Peckett, W Sweeney, W Usher-Bacon, N Waudby, D Randle, N Harris, Eva la Pensee.

10. AOB

**Over the quarter ending 30th August 2019 the Executive Committee of the
Beverley Civic Society has discussed the following subjects:**

Elwell paintings. The Executive is proposing to expand the Elwell Trail, which currently comprises twenty paintings by Fred Elwell and only two by Mary Elwell, by adding three more paintings by Mary and three by Fred. Paintings have been chosen and photographed and suitable sites located. Sponsorship is now needed to pay for printing the pictures on aluminium, framing and erection. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please ring Walter Sweeney on 01482 888880 or email wsweeney@wsweeney.karoo.co.uk.

History Boards. These are now in North Bar Within, Saturday Market, Wednesday Market, Highgate and Flemingate. Three (identical) new boards have recently been put up on Westwood showing the history of the pasture (see the article below). New boards are to replace boards in Eastgate and Hallgarth (these are to be paid for by ERYC).

Coronation Gardens. The Civic Society continues to press ERYC on matters concerning the maintenance of Coronation Gardens and to ensure that the pump in the gardens is in working order. Helen Watson (Clerk to the Town Council) working with Civic Society is hoping to organise volunteers to work on clearing up the private burial ground at the back of the gardens.

We continue to try to raise funds for the restoration of the water pump in North Bar Within.

Planning Matters. The Executive is keeping a close watch on proposals for the expansion of Coletta and Tyson which would result in a greater amount of traffic in Long Lane.

The Executive is questioning the advisability of a filling station at Killingwoldsgraves roundabout.

The Executive can now report that the appeal for a communications mast to be erected in front of Tesco store has been rejected by the Secretary of State.

Beverley Civic Society is an associated member of two other societies – Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies (YHACs) and Civic Voice (a national society which works with government to try and improve communications with civic societies.). On 27th July three members of the Beverley Civic Society attended a quarterly meeting of YHACs in Selby where, after a tour of the abbey, we listened to a talk about proposals for developing the transport system in the north of England.

in April 2020 the YHACs meeting will be hosted by the Beverley Civic Society and held in Beverley.

If any members of Beverley Civic Society would like to have more information about these two societies please contact the secretary, Pamela Hopkins (prhopkins1935@gmail.com or ring 01482 861836).

During the past 12 months membership of the society has increased from 200 to 258.

Pamela Hopkins / Dennis Peckett

Annual Dinner

Members are reminded that our Annual Dinner takes place this year on Friday 20 September at Cerutti2, Station Square, Beverley, at 7.00 for 7.30. The Guest speaker is the Revd Canon Jonathan Baker (Vicar at Beverley Minster). Price £30 per person including VAT. If you would like to come, please fill in the form sent with the last newsletter, or contact the organiser directly, Wendy Usher-Bacon, Beaver House, 30 Queensgate, Beverley, HU17 8NW. Wendy can also be contacted on 01482 871908 or 07970 886479.

Heritage Open Days, Hilda Lyon

This year is the 25th anniversary of Heritage Open Days, marked by a splendid party in Temple Court, London. Beverley Civic Society's celebration last year of 'Extraordinary Women' was featured in a special showcase there, along with contributions from a few other amenity societies. One of our 'Women', Hilda Lyon the aeronautical engineer, has this year been commemorated in a plaque on her birthplace in Market Weighton, an event in which the Beverley Civic Society was involved.



Unveiling of the plaque to Hilda Lyon by the Lord Lieutenant
photo YHACS/Market Weighton Civic Society

Westwood History Boards

The Civic society has now replaced the history boards erected by Beverley Borough Council more than 30 years ago. Illustrated on page 4 is the new board at Hill 60.

The old boards were in a poor state and the new boards have been completely revamped in the style of the Town Centre boards with the addition of more information.

The sites chosen in cooperation with the Pasture Masters are close to the original sites at the entrance to Burton Bushes, near the bottom of Hill 60 and near the end of Westwood Road replacing the concrete plinth.

The Civic Society has worked closely with East Riding staff who are looking at replacing some of the other historic boards such as those on the Eastgate site and at Beckside.

Copies of the all the boards are available on our website in PDF version.

Michael Hildyard



Heritage Open Days 13/14/15th September 2019

Beverley's three days of celebration of Heritage offer, totally free, 45 events, with special emphases on the Rowley story and on Highgate buildings. This year there are also events in Howden, Saltmarshe and Goole in our catalogue. Ten thousand copies of the printed programme will be available from August (you can pick it up in libraries and many public buildings, or you can go online to the national website, <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk> and search by postcode, type of 'event' or day and time). The theme this year is 'People Power', and the Civic Society is putting on a special lecture by Helen Good on 'The Pilgrimage of Grace', a serious grass-roots rebellion that started in Beverley in 1536. The lecture is to be held at the Treasure House on Saturday 14 September, at 11am and repeated at 2 pm. Free event, booking at the Archives desk in the Treasure House is essential.



Trees?

The Executive Committee has been discussing what they might do to help in the climate emergency. One way is to plant trees: the East Riding has fewer trees per acre than any other English county (only 2.6% is wooded). In the recent past 30 million elms died in England, and we are now faced with the loss of 60 million ash trees, and possibly other diseased species. Trees help the climate by absorbing a large amount of CO₂, especially in their first ten years, enhance the landscape and encourage wildlife. In some areas trees are being planted in association with wildflower meadows, which reduces the need for grass cutting and so saves money. The government has given money for tree planting and maintenance, and we live in the area of the projected

Northern Forest. Hull, aided by the Woodland Trust, Heywoods and others, has planted 100,000 trees. Could we plant 30,000, one for each Beverley person? We are really lucky to have Mark Feather, a high-ranking officer in the Woodland Trust, living in Beverley and willing to offer advice. Would members be interested in this project? We'd love to hear from you, via the Civic Society's website or by talking or writing to any member of the Executive (see the Society's website for contact details. <http://www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk/>).

Barbara English

St Mary's Church: the Tudor Restoration

St Mary's church fell in 1520. We used to think it was restored by 1524 as that is the date on two nave pillars. But a recent discovery in the archives at York now demonstrates that the church was not re-consecrated until March 1531 – between 1520 and 1531 the church was considered too polluted to be used for services (because of the fall of the walls and the death of 55 people), and the parishioners presumably went to the Minster. The March 1531 date is also when the new font (picture below) was given to St Mary's, perhaps to mark that all was now well again with the church.

Barbara English



Autumn

Another season from Susan Walker's remarkable tribute to Westwood

Trees start to change colour - so many lovely shades, rusty, yellow, red, brown - gradually leaves fall to ground and lay in untidy heaps until the wind scatters them over the pasture to be recycled. Grass stops growing and cattle start to disappear back to their farms. The Chestnut trees are a source of so much fun, their dark glossy brown conkers falling out of their prickly green shells remind us all of childhood. Days shorten and become chilly, mornings are misty - sometimes a low haze floating just above the ground and sometimes a thick blanket which blocks out the world and makes the walk a mystery when all familiar landmarks disappear. Nature's year is gradually coming full circle and soon the wonder of it all will start once more.

I turn for home and as I walk downhill a feeling of contentment sweeps over me - there before me the Minster reaches majestically up to the sky, standing guard over our treasured old town of Beverley which, half hidden in the hollow, nestles down to await the winter ahead. All is calm, all is well.



Photo by Dick Lidwell

Puzzle Pictures

Last quarter's newsletter had this puzzle picture:



Photograph by Kloskk Tyrer

There were 3 questions: Where is this? Whose coat of arms is it? What does the motto '*Honi soi qui mal y pense*' mean?

Here are the answers: the courtroom in Beverley's Guildhall above the mayor's chair; the coat of arms of the kings of England from 1714-1800; the motto can be translated as '*shame on him who thinks ill of it*'.

This newsletter's puzzle picture illustrates a connection between New York and Highgate. Do you know what that connection is? Answer in the next newsletter.



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



Thursday 12th September

We start our Autumn programme of talks with Dr David Bostwick explaining the meaning and significance of The Medieval Carvings of St Mary's Church, Beverley. He calls them an amazing treasure trove of imagery. We could have called the talk 625 Bosses.

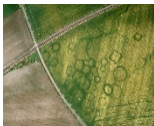
Heritage Open Days are on **13th, 14th and 15^h September**. Please see our website for information. www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk or www.heritageopendays.co.uk

Friday 20th September

Annual Dinner

See page 3 of this newsletter for details

The AGM is on **10th October**



The Margaret Powell Lecture will be on **14th November** and will be given by **Dr Peter Halkon**, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, Hull University. He will talk on Recent Discoveries and research on the Landscape Archaeology of the Yorkshire Wolds. The hot, dry summer of 2018 showed many unknown archaeological sites in East Yorkshire.



On **12th December** our Christmas Talk will be held in St Mary's Church, Beverley and **Roland Deller**, Development Officer at St Mary's, will give us an account of the urgent works to repair and conserve the fabric of the church. There will probably be scaffolding if the work is in progress but we will provide refreshments as usual at Christmas.

All talks start at 7.30 and non-members are welcome to attend for a fee of £3.00.

Beverley & District Civic Society website

If you are not in the habit of using our website, do have a look at it. There is much information there compiled by members of the society – a rich source, particularly if you have visitors unfamiliar with our town and looking for information and places to visit. Go to <http://www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk/>

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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 **Saturday 30th November 2019.**

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
www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk