



Beverley and District Civic Society

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

The Executive Committee of the Beverley & District Civic Society

For the Quarter ending 31st Jan 2017 here is the summary of some of the matters discussed by your Executive Committee.

Parking on Westwood (the concern for the parking on footways and pasture areas at the lower, town end of Westwood Road, continues). Police and Pasture Masters are proposing to be more active.

Rights of Way in Beverley Town. There have been helpful meetings between ERYC officers and a small Executive Committee working group. There are many well used pedestrian passageways that need protection.

Actions to publicise our national movement for Civic Voice Day (17th June 2017 - see page 9 of this newsletter) are under consideration.

Eleven Executive members were give a tour of the new East Riding College of Further Education, and learned about the buildings, subjects taught and student body. The Executive supported the nomination of the College for a design award from Civic Voice.

“History Boards” – to explain the town to its residents and visitors - are being planned.

Planning permission for the Beverley Arms has been given and a group of the Executive Committee discussed the changes beforehand with the developers. Discussion continues with ERYC planners about the extensive house building planned for the south of Beverley.

The Danish Soldiers plaque on the south side of St Mary’s church still needs renovation. The Executive Committee has encouraged that project and will give a £1,000 towards it, provided other finance is raised.

Loudspeakers and a speaker’s microphone have been purchase to improve audibility of our monthly talks.

At the end of this quarter there were 196 members of our Society.

Gerald O’Callaghan, the Minute Secretary

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The Development Group

The Group maintains a monitoring role on planning applications, primarily in the Conservation areas of Beverley, and submits comments to East Riding of Yorkshire Council's planning department.

A major on-going application which is arousing interest and concern is for the large area to the South East of the town, South of Flemingate, West of Hull Road, East of the railway line, and South up to the new Southern Relief Road, a development in all of some 900 houses. The area has been designated for housing within the recently adopted Local Plan.

The Group is very concerned about a number of aspects, and has submitted comments to East Riding Council's planning department. This area, together with the area to the West of the railway line, will have a substantial impact on the character of Beverley. Having reviewed the proposals we feel that an opportunity to produce a development worthy of Beverley's Heritage will be lost. As we mentioned in earlier submissions, these two large developments to the South of Beverley should have presented a great opportunity to create an integrated settlement of distinctive design, built to high environmental standards, and not yet another standard suburban estate which bears no relation to the town and the local area.

Members may see the details of the application, and read The Society's and others' comments, on the public access site of East Riding of Yorkshire's Council's planning department:

<http://www2.eastriding.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-permission/view-and-comment-on-planning-applications/>
Ref number: 16/02784/STPLF

Dick Lidwell

Reports on Civic Society Public Meetings

15th December, 2016

The Mercy Ships

Dr Chris Rigg gave a most inspiring talk on the work carried out by medical professionals such as himself for a charity giving aid to some of the poorest people in Africa. This was set up in 1978 by Don Stephens, an American, to fulfil the Christian aims of service to God and others, through integrity and excellence in performance. In realising this, the objective has been to bring free surgery to needy people in the developing world. Now 65% of the medical staff is multinational. His ship serves poor West African countries such as Benin, Togo, Ghana and Liberia where local health care is very limited.

The ship operates as a floating hospital with six operating theatres and four wards, plus facilities for physiotherapy and occupational therapy. There are

400 personnel on board; they include doctors, nurses and physiotherapists with permanent staff meeting all their everyday needs in running restaurants, a school, a bank, and a library, plus the ship's crew. The costs are borne by the charity but medical staff are sponsored or they donate their services. For example, Chris, an anaesthetist at Castle Hill Hospital, works unpaid for three weeks a year on the ship. At the behest of the country concerned they dock at certain ports down the west African coast for between six months and nine months at a time, to allow for both complex operations and recuperation.

Through advance notice, the ship will find long queues of potential patients already waiting in the hope that shore volunteers will select them as the most urgent and needy cases for treatment. Their problems vary from serious injuries, including burns, to deformities, tumours, squints, cleft palates and dental problems, etc. Some require further reconstruction work before being discharged. Modern surgery can be life - transforming for many, as the 'before and after' photographs showed, and Chris finds joy and reward from his part in this.

All public donations go entirely to the work of the Mercy Ships and they receive some substantial payments. For instance J. Marr Sea Foods in Hull donates £25,000 a year. The money not only funds the current work but is also contributing to a new larger ship with 10 decks, which will be treating many more patients in the future. In a vote of thanks Chris was warmly praised for his work and a number of those present made their own addition to the Civic Society's donation to a worthy cause.

Rosemary Major

Thursday, 12th January, 2017

The Medieval Hansa and the Great Port of Hull

Eva La Pensée gave her audience a most comprehensive history of the highly important organisation constituted to promote trade between the major ports in northern Europe in the middle ages. The first known reference to the Hansa is 1129. It was set up as a fraternal association for trading purposes which gained monopolies and privileges for its membership and remained a loose but highly effective confederation for over 300 years. The Hanseatic League was administered from four Kontore or trading centres in territories outside the Holy Roman Empire. These were Bergen in Norway, Peterhof in Novgorod in Russia, Bruges and the Steelyard in London. Goods could be transported by river, as well as sea, to and from the Hansa ports which included Danzig, Lübeck and Cologne.

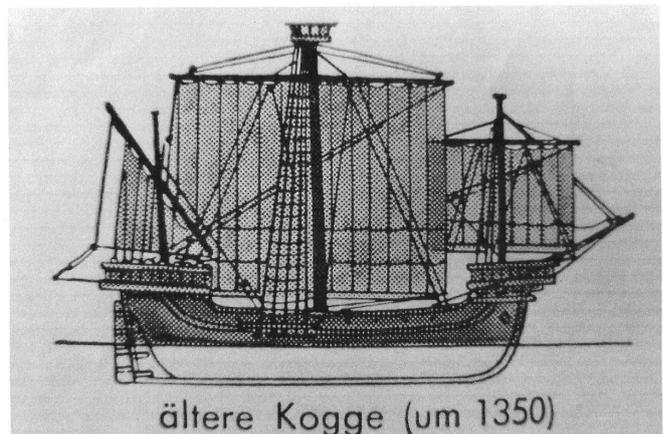
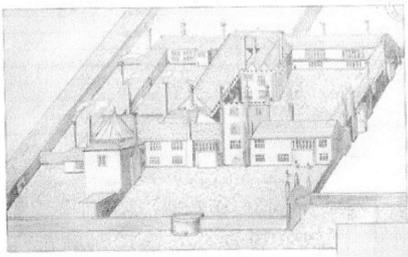
Promotion of trade was also of national interest and in 1175 Henry II offered the Guildhall in London as part of England's Steelyard, where the Hanse merchants could stay and trade. Hull became a Hansa port, boosting its

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significance and eventually its wealth, with new docks defended by a heavy chain across the entrance to the River Hull, where tolls were paid. Beverley, with its own dock connecting to the river, benefited greatly from the enhanced trading links. In the 12th century, Yorkshire sheep were being bred specifically for their high quality wool as a principal export from which merchants, land owners and monasteries were profiting handsomely. The moral concerns of the Church were mitigated through the substantial charitable donations made by the merchants, thus allowing its hierarchy to sanction the trade. Grain, which was another important local product, was stored in Highgate, while the selling and contracting took place in the Minster, until the dissolution of the monasteries.

By the 1360s the wool trade had extended into the export of manufactured woollen products too. Records show that some Flemish cloth makers were working in Eastgate, Beverley, rather than in Flanders, and locally-based merchants such as William de la Pole were making a fortune, as his home Suffolk Place in Lowgate indicates. The Percy family also played a part, using Wressle Castle on the River Derwent for warehousing goods transported in the versatile wide-bottomed sailing ships called cogs, from the German name, "Kogge".

Suffolk Place in Lowgate



Merchants spent considerable time away from home taking their wares to the various markets and fairs held regularly around western Europe. They also carried their money in barrels, as there were no banks and the only repository possible was in the home of a trading partner. English bullion had special value owing to its consistently high silver content. Protection from thieves and pirates became a major concern and from 1255 onwards mercenaries were employed to defend Hanse ships. In their absence, merchants' wives assumed significant responsibilities on their behalf in maintaining their business activities at home. German domination of the League started to decline in the 16th century with the rise of England and Holland as world trading powers in their own right. The last Diet was held at Lübeck in 1669. Little physical evidence is left in the English Hanse ports apart from Kings Lynn, where the Hanse House is preserved on The Great Ouse; whereas in Danzig the huge crane and tread wheel remain to bear witness to the heyday of the city's mercantile success. In the 1980s, a meeting of former Hanse cities instituted a modern Hanse Day as a regular opportunity for the 175 member cities to recall their common history. Mike Hildyard thanked Eva for her exceptionally well - researched account, during Hull's celebration as City of Culture, of an important phase in the history of this area.

Rosemary Major

Sledmere House Gardens throughout the year 9th February, 2017

Andrew Karaviks, Head Gardener and Grounds Manager, gave a stimulating account of his achievements over the past eight years in transforming the gardens at Sledmere in order to attract visitors in all seasons. His design work is an essential starting point to creating dynamic landscaping and sensational combinations of plant forms, textures and colour which evolve through the year. As one of only three full-time gardeners he also has to use labour-saving methods of horticulture to enable his staff to cope with an increasing number of borders, pots, archways, etc. His abiding theme is 'Lark Ascending' which is interpreted in terms of spiralling plants growing over frames, walls, and obelisks, adding height and dramatic effect.

At present, preparation of new beds and archways is underway, while the public can visit free of charge. The woodland garden has the earliest ground plants but these are supplemented with a range of terra cotta pots, prepared in the green houses and containing bold combinations of spring flowers, especially tulips. Large pot plants are also an important feature in the house. Abundant displays of clematis and bearded iris bridge the seasons, followed by climbing roses used to spectacular effect over arches and obelisks.

The kitchen garden also makes an important visual contribution through interesting juxtaposition of vegetables in terms of colour and form together with climbing beans and globe artichokes for height. As summer progresses the border planting becomes denser and the colours hotter, with yellows, reds

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and oranges dominant. Their colour interest lasts well into autumn, with rose hips and echinacea seed heads left to stand out in the lowering sunlight, which also catches beauty of the grasses. In October, in the potager, the pumpkins come into their own with a half-term pumpkin trail for children.

Andy's intelligent maintenance scheme is essential to keeping on top of the day- to day jobs with so few gardeners. Close planting helps to reduce weeding and staking, while leaving certain plants to go to seed minimises dead-heading. An economy in time and money is the digging-in of annuals in situ at the end of the season to create compost for the coming year. His audience was treated to some excellent photographs of the gardens, including the wild life which inhabits it, and his cheerful fellow gardeners, who clearly enjoy working there. Gerald O Callaghan, in his vote of thanks, said he visits the garden four times a year and still has not seen it all.

Rosemary Major



Civic Voice Day Saturday 17th June 2017

Civic Voice is an organisation which supports the civic movement in England. It aims to make places more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive and seeks to promote civic pride. Beverley Civic Society is a member of this organisation.

This year, on Saturday 17th June, Civic Voice is holding Civic Voice Day. This is an opportunity for people to express a pride for the town in which they live and to show that they care. 2017 is the 50th celebration of the passing of the Civic Amenities Act which led different towns to set up Conservation Areas. In Beverley it was to be another year before the area from the Sessions House (now a health spa) in New Walk to the Minster became a conservation area which also included properties to the south of the Minster and in Flemingate. The Beverley Civic Society has always expressed its voice in trying to preserve what is best in our town.

The Executive of the Civic Society decided that we should join in with these celebrations. Today, the town is full of people who have newly come to live in Beverley, or are just visiting, who are unaware of the great heritage we have.

On Saturday 17th June we plan to hire a stall in Saturday Market, from 9 am to 4 pm manned by members of the Society, and invite people to drop in for a chat, read the literature we have available, perhaps complete a treasure hunt or a quiz and generally learn more about our town.

We need members of the Society to help us with this project. If you are free to help please give me a ring on 01482 861836 or email prhopkins@prhopkins.karoo.co.uk.
Pamela Hopkins

The water pump in North Bar Within

Standing on the edge of the pavement, halfway along the wall of St Mary's Manor in North Bar Within, is the last surviving public water pump in Beverley. Octagonal in shape and made of iron, it has lost its handle, spout and trough, but still remains elegant, if a little forlorn. It is a Grade II listed structure.

Public and private pumps and wells were once a great feature of Beverley streets – a visitor in 1697, Celia Fiennes, remarked on how many wells she saw. The first known mention of the North Bar Within pump is in the Beverley Borough minutes of 1785, when it was decided that 'the pump in North Bar Street adjoining the Mayor's house to be removed into Wood Lane' – it must later have been returned, or more likely replaced.

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Water became, in the later 19th century, the subject of a political struggle in Beverley between those who wanted running water, water closets, proper drainage (the Conservatives), and those who thought the archaic arrangements of pumps and water tanks just fine, and much cheaper (the Liberals). The battle continued from 1850 to 1881, when a Beverley Waterworks Bill finally passed through Parliament. In the East Riding archives there is a thick book of documents relating to the Bill, with pages of very detailed evidence given by Beverley men to a Parliamentary Select Committee. Bad water brought diseases, said the water reformers, countered with arguments that the water was fine and that Beverley was a very healthy place, owing to the fresh air of Westwood.

The pump in North Bar Within was of a superior design. It was made by the firm of Samuel Owens of Whitefriars, Fleet Street, London, and the above ground structure was called the 'Enriched Gothic Pump Case', as can be seen in the illustration from Owens' catalogue of 1872. There are or were, mechanical parts of the pump below the pavement (hand pumps need a downpipe to the water supply, a cylinder, a piston and two valves, with a handle and a spout at street level).

The North Bar Within pump seems to have been put there, in this most fashionable of streets, some time between about 1862 and 1873 – or possibly, if Owens kept the same pump in their catalogue for thirty years (would they?), as late as 1883 when Beverley finally got a proper water supply. Gothic pumps similar to Beverley's can be found elsewhere in England, in Bromley (put there after 1863), Ickenham (1866), Cranfield (1866), Ipplepen (1868) Stalbridge, Hampton Court and Esher (the last three undated). Pictures and descriptions of these can be seen on the excellent website www.villagepumps.org.uk from which this information was taken.

Beverley Civic Society has long wanted to find the missing parts of the pump but without success, and paid for the painting of the pump some years ago. There was once a similar pump in Highgate, which disappeared in the 20th century. If anyone knows of missing pieces or missing pumps, we'd be very glad to know.

Thanks to Dick Williams who runs the villagepumps site for generously providing information and the catalogue picture, and to Mike Hildyard for the photograph of the pump in February 2017.

Barbara English

No. 15.



No. 15.

**ENRICHED GOTHIC
PUMP CASE,**

(A handsome bold design) with barrel, brass bucket and valve.

3½-inch.....	£20 0 0
4 "	21 0 0
4½ "	22 0 0
5 "	24 10 0

Height without base 7-ft. 3-in.

A good square cast-iron base is often supplied with this Pump at 50s. extra, it thus stands 10 inches higher. Brass internal barrel extra, as No. 9. See page 5.



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**Civic Society Outing
Wednesday 14th June 2017**

Exploring Lincolnshire

(As Gunby Hall is not open on a Thursday there is a change of date from that given in this year's membership card)

This year we are proposing to travel into Lincolnshire for our Day Outing

09.15 Leave Beverley from Durham Ox, Norwood, Beverley

10.00 Arrive Thornton Abbey (an English Heritage site) for a tour of the 14th century gatehouse.

Thornton Abbey was founded in 1140. By the late 13th century it was one of the richest abbeys in England. Closed by Henry VIII in 1539 all that remains of the abbey buildings, apart from the earthworks, is the magnificent brick gatehouse built in 1377-82.

Coffee available from the coffee machine.

11.15 Leave Thornton Abbey and drive through the Lincolnshire Wolds.

12.30 Arrive at the Royal Oak (the Splash). A traditional 17th century inn set in the picturesque village of Little Cawthorpe.
Lunch (cold meat, salads, a roll and tea/coffee).

13.45 Leave The Splash and drive to Gunby Hall

14.15 Arrive Gunby Hall.

Gunby Hall was built in 1700 for Sir William Massingberd and remained with the family until it passed to the National Trust in 1944. It is a Grade 1 listed brick building. It holds a significant collection of art, furniture, porcelain and silver. Guides will be available in every room. It has extensive Victorian walled gardens and a walk to an Ice House in the parkland.

Afternoon tea provided in the Tea Rooms

16.45 Leave Gunby and return to Beverley

18.15 Arrive Beverley

Cost: The cost of the day (which includes entrance to Thornton Abbey, lunch at the Splash and coach journey) will be £28.

If you are a member of English Heritage and can produce your card please deduct £5 from the cost of the day - £23.

Because Beverley Civic Society is a member of Civic Voice all members of the society are permitted free entry to a National Trust property. If you are not

a member of the Beverley Civic Society please add £6.25 for admission to Gunby Hall - £33.25.

If you would like to go on this outing please fill in and return the booking sheet which is inserted in this newsletter

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

Thursday 16th March 2017

Arthur Credland F.S.A
Marine Painting

Thursday 13th April

Open Forum

with Alan Menzies, Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration for ERYC, and a discussion about the development of the south side of Beverley

Thursday 11th May

Professor John Oldfield
Modern slavery: what it is and how to tackle it.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Neil King, 1 Woodlands, Beverley HU17 8BT

Tel: 01482 862752 email: neilandsarah@mansle.karoo.co.uk

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 Summer 2017 Newsletter is
Wednesday 31st May 2017**

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

**Quarterly deadlines are always the last days of February, May, August
and September, unless advance notice is given otherwise**

Over a third 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' time and shoe-leather. It is appreciated that many do not use email or prefer to receive their newsletter in hard copy form; but if you are willing to join the e-circulation list, please could you let me know via the above email address. Many thanks.



Affiliated to Civic Voice and Yorkshire and Humberside Association of Civic
Societies
www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk

BOOKING FORM FOR A DAY VISIT TO LINCOLNSHIRE

ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2017

If you would like to go on this visit please complete the form below and send it, with a cheque made out to 'Beverley and District Civic Society' (together with a stamped addressed envelope), to Pamela Hopkins, 6 York Road, Beverley HU17 8DP

Please note – **all bookings to be in by 14th May**

NAME (capital letters please).....

ADDRESS.....

.....POST CODE.....

TEL.....

Or EMAIL.....

I would like to apply for the following number of tickets for this visit:

.....tickets @ £28 a ticket (if a member of the Beverley Civic Society)

..... “ @ £23 a ticket (if a member of English Heritage)

..... “ @ £33.25 (if not a member of Beverley Civic Society)

And enclose a cheque for £.....

Please tick if you would prefer a vegetarian lunch –

SIGNATURE

If there are any problems please contact either Pam Hopkins on
01482 861836

Or Ann Spedding on 01482 881242