



Beverley and District Civic Society¹

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

**Important notice re the early deadline for the next newsletter
Intending contributors please see the end of this newsletter**

Report on the Civic Society Open Forum on Thursday, 13th April. 2017

A Question and Answer Meeting with Alan Menzies on new Housing Developments on the south side of Beverley

The Society welcomed the speaker, Mr Alan Menzies, Deputy CE of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration, who came to take questions from Society members, and others, on new housing plans, in particular on land to the north side of the southern Beverley bypass. Sandy Patience introduced him as a good friend to the Society over the years and Mr Menzies undertook to refer back to his Department to find answers to questions where necessary. He described his role in planning matters, in particular the development of the Local Plan published in 2016 which set a target of 3,300 new homes in Beverley by 2029. The prior public consultation process had entailed Departmental responses to 2,040 submissions from residents regarding the initial plans.

Responding to a comment from the audience that house builders were more concerned with maximising profit than in quality in design and build, Alan Menzies defended his Department's position. He said that during the planning process council officers had discussed various aspects including quality, landscaping and layout with potential developers. However, the developers' stated aim was to satisfy customers' wishes and to achieve the Government target of 1,400 new homes per year in Beverley. This year so far 1065 have been completed.

The site south of Beverley involves 14 different landowners which complicates planning matters. In answer to concern about adequate services for a population increase of at least 6,000, Alan Menzies stated that the developers will meet the costs of new infrastructure and services as well as expansion in health and education provision. Over fears of potential flooding in low lying areas, he pointed out that the developers had to prove that their measures to counter such a threat would work and the Authority will push hard on this.

PTO

Regarding the retention of a protected corridor of land for recreation which would also retain views to the Minster, Mr. Menzies was asked if the Society could be involved in the planning discussions. In response to concern over heritage and possible creeping urbanisation of areas such as Long Lane, he asked whether preservation of heritage should always take precedence over new homes.

Another Society member pointed out that an extra 3,000 homes could exacerbate the existing traffic pressures within the town. Since 60% to 70% of new home owners would be likely to work in Hull, the positioning of housing as well as the access roads would be critical in minimising this threat. Mr Menzies agreed that the planning process should include consideration of this.

Another issue raised was the prevailing uniformity in design and layout of housing on large estates, limiting buyers' choice in appearance, type and size of home. Alan Menzies said that developers and their architects claim that they build what customers want to buy when carrying out the Government's policy to expand production. If Local Authority planning permission is refused and the developers win their appeal, the Council's power over the application is lost, which could result in a worse outcome for the town.

Pamela Hopkins and Rosemary Major

Civic Society Open Meeting on Thursday, 11th May 2017 From Wilberforce to modern day slavery

Professor John Oldfield, an historian whose specialism is the history of slavery in the Atlantic World from 1750 to 1850, gave a most comprehensive account of anti-slavery campaigns in Britain, and later internationally. He also described the changes in the definition of slavery over time, starting with William Wilberforce.

Slavery, as practised in the Americas in the cultivation of sugar, rice, cotton, coffee and cocoa, involved the transportation of an estimated 15 million Africans between 1500 and 1857, and by 1800 45 million were enslaved in the New World. Slave codes defined these people as the chattels of their owners with no rights of their own. Demand for the products of their labour and the resulting wealth accruing to Britain in various forms in the 18th century seemed to pose an insurmountable obstacle to any challenge.

However, the determined efforts of abolitionists in the late 1700s through pamphlets and petitions to Parliament, together with the persuasive abilities of their leading spokesman in the House of Commons, the M.P. for Yorkshire, brought about the abolition of the slave trade in 1807. Wilberforce faced a powerful West Indies lobby but his great strength was his ability to work with those who did not share all his views. When it became clear that more was needed to bring slavery to an end in the British Caribbean, despite his poor

health he began to campaign for total abolition of the ownership of slaves. He managed to live to witness success as his Bill was passed in 1833, two days before his death.

In global terms slavery continued for many more years as it remained for individual nations to adopt more humane attitudes towards the practice. Brazil, for example, only made it illegal in 1888. International co-operation after the Napoleonic wars was limited and it was not until the League of Nations in the 1920s, under pressure from Britain, redefined slave status as being a situation when all powers of ownership can be exercised by one over another.

In 1956 a United Nations Convention classified debt bondage and serfdom as examples of slavery; also forced labour on the scale of the Soviet gulags and Nazi labour camps came into the category. The possessing or controlling of another in such a way as to deprive them of their liberty in relation to practices such as child soldiers, forced marriage or labour, people trafficking for prostitution, etc., became new examples.

Assumptions that this slavery only happens elsewhere have been revised following Home Office evidence that at least 13,000 people in the UK today are victims. The Modern Slavery Act of 2015, and the appointment of an Anti-slavery Commissioner, Kenneth Highland, have brought results, as more cases are reported, followed by prosecutions. The National Crime Agency in 2016 dealt with 3,805 cases of slavery, mainly relating to Albanians, Vietnamese, Nigerians and Chinese people brought into Britain for forced labour or prostitution. Humberside Police are keen to be involved in trafficking cases which can be complex, involving cultural or immigration issues as well as investigations at an international level.

Rosemary Major

Dear Civic Society Member...

In June this year members of the executive of the Civic Society are organising two activities which I would like to bring to your attention.

Wednesday 14th June – Day outing to Lincolnshire

Information about the proposed day trip to Thornton Abbey and Gunby Hall went out with the newsletter. Places are still available. To cover expenses we need to have at least 40 people on the trip. If you are interested in joining us could you please fill in the attached Booking Form and, together with a cheque made out to Beverley Civic Society, send it to me at 6 York Road, Beverley, HU17 8DP by 5th June. I apologise to those of you who have already signed up to join this trip and now receive this letter. **PTO**

Saturday 17th June – Pride in our Place

Beverley Civic Society is affiliated to Civic Voice – a national organisation which promotes the aims of civic societies. Each year Civic Voice holds a national day in which civic societies throughout England celebrate the town which they represent. The aim of the day is to encourage people to take a pride in their town and to appreciate the place in which they live.

This year Beverley Civic Society is taking part in this day. We plan to hire a stall in Saturday Market from 9am – 3pm and encourage residents or visitors to the town to come and see what we have to offer. On the stall we shall have free booklets about Beverley (donated by Tourist Information Centre), books about Beverley for sale, quizzes and trails and information about the Society.

But we need your help on the stall, to meet people and encourage them to talk about why they like to be in Beverley – just as volunteers at Hull City of Culture give out so much enthusiasm and information to visitors to Hull. We plan to hold an introductory sessions on Thursday 15th June to talk further about what we are offering. Once we know who is joining us in this venture further details will be given.

So please do come, help us to promote the positive points of living in Beverley and tell people about our society. If you are interested in helping please contact me (email: prhopkins@prhopkins.karoo.co.uk) or telephone (01482 861836).

Yours sincerely
 Pamela R Hopkins
 Hon. Secretary of Beverley & District Civic Society



Thornton Abbey

**CIVIC SOCIETY OUTING
WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2017**

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

Exploring Lincolnshire

Please use the Booking Form on page 7 of this newsletter

09.15 Leave Beverley from Durham Ox, Norwood, Beverley

10.00 Arrive Thornton Abbey (an English Heritage site) for a tour of the magnificent brick gatehouse built 1377-82.

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 gatehouse

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, salad, 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 which 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.

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

Wed 14th Jun 9:15am - 6:15pm

Exploring Lincolnshire: a day's outing

Coach outing to Lincolnshire

Thornton Abbey and Gunby Hall, Lincolnshire: day visit

Please see separate booking form with this newsletter for details and application

Sat 17th Jun 9:00am - 3:00pm

Saturday Market, Beverley

Pride in our Place - National Civic Society Day

We will be running a stall. Help needed - volunteers please ring Pam Hopkins on 01482 861836

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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.

Please note that the deadline for the Summer 2017 Newsletter will not as is customary be the last day of the month, but three weeks earlier on Thursday 10th August. This is because I shall be abroad soon thereafter until well into September, and the newsletter with the AGM Agenda must go out a clear three weeks before the AGM.

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.

Gunby Hall

**BOOKING FORM FOR A DAY VISIT TO LINCOLNSHIRE
ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE**

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 4th June**

NAME (capital letters
please).....

ADDRESS.....
.....

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

TEL.....

Or
EMAIL.....
.....

I would like to apply for Tickets at £28 a ticket
..... " " £23 (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 –

If there are any problems please contact Ann Spedding on 01482
881242 or
Pam Hopkins on 01482 861836

SIGNATURE



Gunby Hall