



# Beverley and District Civic Society

## NEWSLETTER

### SUMMER 2018

#### Coronation Gardens Tomb



Keen eyed members may have observed that one of the grandest tombs in the wild area to the west of the neat and tidy Coronation Gardens has been tidied up with the ivy removed and the elegant iron railings re-erected and repainted. The marble tombstone has the following inscription (reproduced here as it is difficult to read):

Sacred to the memory of Lieut General Thomas Marten KH. Colonel 6th (Inniskilling) dragoons, whose mortal remains lie interred in the vault beneath this tomb. Born in Winchelsea 29th December 1797, died at Beverley 22nd November 1868.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Rev 14, v13).

On the opposite side of the tomb there is this inscription.

Also to the memory of Caroline Harriet, widow of Lieut General Thomas Marten, KH, and the daughter of the late Henry Ellison Esq. of Beverley, who died December 6th 1882 aged 85 years.

"I look for the Lord, my soul doth wait for Him, in His word is my trust." (Psalm 130 v5).

Henry Ellison (d. 1836) lived at St Mary's Manor and had two daughters. After his death one of them, Caroline Marten, moved into the house with her husband Thomas. They remained there for the rest of their lives, Thomas dying in 1868, and she in 1882.

Thomas Marten was present as a junior officer (cornet) at the battle of Waterloo. Apparently, there's an interesting tale to tell also. The Council instructed Col. Marten to chop down some trees, as they overhung the pavement. He objected, but a few days before the 1st March 1851 deadline was reached workmen turned up and began chopping down the branches, throwing them into Marten's garden and damaging some shrubs. He then sued the Council for trespass, and won his case!

Dick Lidwell

## Mary Wollstonecraft – The Beverley Connection

To mark the Centenary of the granting of Women's Suffrage, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 the author Val Wise gave a comprehensive account of an early advocate of women's rights who spent her formative years in Beverley. Born into a London family struggling to survive, she came as a child to the East Riding in 1768 to enable her father to try making a living from farming.

Their only certain address, deduced from archival evidence, was 2, Highgate where they lived from 1770 to 1775. Mary attended a local school which she found unimpressive. Described as sharp in manner and angry in appearance, she would later portray her family life as dysfunctional. However, she gained a good friend in Jane Arden who introduced her to a very different local family headed by Dr John Arden, a scientist, who educated Mary along with his daughter. His son John, with a progressive outlook, would later be elected Mayor of Beverley nine times. He tried to put an end to bull-baiting in the town centre. The Ardens lived in North Bar Within, adjacent to what is now the Beverley Arms.

A number of Mary's letters which were later published, give some flavour of her girlhood in Beverley between the ages of ten and fifteen. In particular she describes the pleasure of walks on Westwood. On returning south, Mary worked as a governess and teacher, including a spell in Ireland. The French Revolution, and the Declaration of the Rights of Man in 1789, stimulated her growing belief in Feminism. Her own declaration, published in 1792, entitled *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, advocated women's entitlement to a life beyond the domestic sphere.

She spent time in France, had a baby by an American, Gilbert Imlay, who deserted her and, returning to London, she attempted suicide. On a visit to Beverley she commented that "The town did not please me as before". She was disappointed to find people still living much as in her childhood. Her marriage to William Godwin in 1797 led to the birth of a baby girl who would become Mary Shelley. Sadly her mother died at the birth. In tribute, Godwin wrote a frank biography of his wife, describing both her goodness and also her controversial personal life, which upset some of her admirers. Val Wise's own account is of Mary aged fifteen, and is entitled *The Wrongs of Women*.



Rosemary Major

## The East Riding and the Sea

On Thursday 10 May 2018 Dr Robb Robinson gave the Civic Society a wide-ranging talk on the many connections between the East Riding and the sea. Fully illustrated with modern photographs, older paintings, map, charts and graphs, we were taken on a journey from the prehistory of the Riding (when all of Holderness was a shallow bay, and England was joined to continental Europe by a land bridge, much of it being the present Dogger Bank) to the most recent development of wind farms.

Dr Robinson began with a brief description of the Viola Trust, which is intending to bring home the steam trawler Viola, built in Beverley in 1906, once in the Hellyer fishing fleet, and now stranded at South Georgia.

He showed us how the East Riding was surrounded by coasts and rivers with many meres and streams. The ‘dynamic’ coasts to the North Sea and the Humber were subject to many changes, the Holderness edge being probably the most eroded in Europe, where roads, houses churches and even towns had gone under the sea.

The East Riding has for centuries produced fish for sale, the type of fish changing with public taste and catching methods. Other resources from the sea were cobbles and gravel, and now North Sea gas, oil and wind power.

Dr Robinson demonstrated how Bridlington had been a very successful harbour and refuge, being one of the few on the East Coast, protected by the underwater Smithwick Sands, and served by pilots. The coast had also known pirates and smugglers, and its defences had been of great significance in two world wars. In reply to questions, he told us that a Beverley steamer made by Crosskills was in a Canberra lake: and that the coastal waters fishing ‘limit’ used to be defined as the length of a cannon shot.



## **Summary of subjects discussed by your Executive Committee in the months of March, April and May 2018**

At the March Meeting Mr Paul Belotti, the Interim Director of Environmental & Neighbourhood Services with the ERYC, came to discuss his broad role and to answer questions the Committee wished to put about it. The scale of the work of his Directorate is well indicated by about 3,100 staff and a budget of £120 million. Mr Belotti agreed that he would be happy to come in the future to review progress at the Civic Society's Open Forum in St Mary's Church hall in April 2019. This would give an opportunity for all Society members to hear him.

We have now 211 members of our Society, including 49 life members.

The green painted water pump on the East side of North Bar Within lacks its spout and pump handle. It is hoped to restore the pump by installing the missing bits. Work continues on this.

Our Annual Dinner is now confirmed for Friday 26th October. The Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Susan Cunliffe Lister, will be our speaker. See elsewhere in this newsletter for the booking form.

The plaque on St Mary's church wall commemorating the deaths of two Danish soldiers in December 1689 which has deteriorated badly will now be renewed. St Mary's church has raised the funds needed (this includes £1,000 committed by our Society several years ago). Some members of the Executive Committee are among others involved from St Mary's church.

Your Executive Committee feels that new volunteers to become members of the Committee would be valuable to the Society. The work is interesting for those involved and is also, we believe, a good contribution to Beverley and District.

Heritage Open Days 2018 will be on 7th and 8th September this year. Those of the Committee who are involved are planning as many as 25 buildings open, with other events such as talks.

The Beverley Arms renewal/restoration is proceeding. A major addition of a new accommodation block is under construction behind the original, and remaining, frontage.

History Boards continue to be created and erected. There are new Boards in the Flemingate Centre and another in Highgate. A site is still being sought in Wednesday Market for a Board.

In Coronation Gardens the water supply and fountain have been restored. The reproduction of paintings by the Elwells has been there for several years and these are now a feature of Beverley. They are being cleaned and the

frames carefully secured and repainted. The work seems to be a successful and worthwhile project.

The Society's annual outing (the coach will take us to both Hovingham Hall and Nunnington Hall) still has some vacancies. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details and a booking form.

### **Wenceslaus Hollar's 17<sup>th</sup>-century Hull**



Hollar's bird's eye view and prospect of Hull

Wenceslaus Hollar's signed but undated map and prospect of Hull is his earliest English plan, and one of the best and most detailed maps of Hull ever drawn. Hollar came to England as printmaker to the earl of Arundel in the very last days of 1636, and the map was made before the end of 1642, as part of it was included in a political broadsheet of 31 December 1642. The map (technically a 'bird's eye view'), and the 'prospect', the view of Hull from the Humber, has been reused again and again for other works, including a mug produced in the USA in 2017.

There is no record that Hollar ever came to Hull, but he was probably in York in April 1639 with the earl of Arundel and King Charles I's court. As Hull was of great military importance, a number of plans were made around that time, and Hollar could have used these, now lost. He did not include earthen defences added to Hull from 1640, so it is possible the map was made 1639-1640.



Part of Hollar's engraved copper plate now in the British Library (photo by Barbara English)

In 2012 the original copper plate on which Hollar engraved his map was discovered by a London map specialist and acquired by the British Library. It was lent to the Ferens Art Gallery for some months in 2017. The detail is amazing, very fine lines drawn in mirror image by the artist who was partly blind. There seem to be no original Hollar prints made from this plate within Hull or Beverley: Hull History Centre and the Museums only have a later copy of 1796 by Isaac Taylor, which is much more readily available, not so well engraved and missing the 'prospect' and some other material. I'd be glad to know if members know of any original Hollars in the area, as sometimes the watermark on the paper shows the date the plate was used – and prints seem to have been made for at least 150 years from Hollar's original.

Barbara English

### **Heritage Open Days, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Do come and join in the Beverley Heritage Open Days in September. A packed programme of buildings, events, walks and talks – and EVERY ONE of them is free. It is organised by your Society, but everyone who wants to come, member or not, is welcome. The full programme will be available in August.

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September we are running 'brief lives', talks (by a number of visiting speakers), on our chosen Twelve Extraordinary Women, who were named in the last newsletter.

The talks will be in the comfort of the Education Room in the Treasure House, with parking, café, a lift and excellent facilities. The day will be in two sessions, 10.00 – 12.00 and 1.00 to 3.00.

There will be a chance for further discussion and a view of some exhibits during the day, in a smaller room adjacent to the Education Room.

Session One: St Hilda abbess and teacher/Johanna Crossley townswoman/Mary Wollstonecraft radical feminist/Elizabeth Lambert musician and artist/Mary Braddon novelist/Mary Elwell artist.

Session Two: Eva Collet Reckitt communist and bookseller/Winifred Holtby author/Nellie Collinson innkeeper/Hilda Lyon aeronautical engineer/Margaret Powell councillor and conservationist/Pat Albeck textile designer.

Pre-booking for one or both sessions is strongly recommended in person at the Treasure House, by phone 01482 392790, or Admin Team Skirlaugh 01482 392699 (Mon-Fri, 9am to 4pm).

Online booking at [www.eastriding.gov.uk/events](http://www.eastriding.gov.uk/events)

On 31 August your Civic Society will be unveiling a new plaque for the Extraordinary Mary Wollstonecraft, and that night and the following week there will also be a surprise tribute to her in town...you won't be able to miss it.

### **St Mary's Church Heritage Project**

Last week Anna Salaman, a Cultural Heritage Learning Consultant, invited me, in my role as Secretary of the Beverley Civic Society, and as a local historian, to discuss the bosses in St Mary's Church. Subjects focused on what methods of interpretation could be used to understand the meaning of the 625 bosses and how the general public can be made more aware of the wonderful heritage we have in the ceilings of the church. Below is a short piece written by Ed Norman which offers members of the Society the opportunity to take part in a focus group which will result in a better understanding of these medieval bosses.

Pamela Hopkins

St Mary's is engaged in a significant project to persuade the Heritage Lottery fund (HLF) to provide funds for desperately needed building restoration work. In our funding application we are keen to demonstrate that the heritage of the church is relevant to our community and the interests of people today. Central to our application for funding is a project involving the unique medieval bosses which look down on us from the ceilings of the church. We would like to give you the opportunity to look at them closely and to understand their meaning. We want to hear the thoughts and ideas that come to you when you imagine what people today might learn from them and maybe suggest activities that would encourage, enable and inspire people to engage with these images from our past.

We invite members of Beverley Civic Society to join us on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 7.30-8.30pm at St Mary's. The session will start off in the church itself, looking at the bosses in situ, and will move on to the Parish Hall for a discussion. No prior knowledge is required, and refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to be part of this interesting project, please email Ed Norman at [ednorman29@gmail.com](mailto:ednorman29@gmail.com).

Ed Norman - Project leader St Mary's Church

### **PATRICIA DEANS (1931-2018)**



Pat Deans was a true Beverlonian and a valued member of the executive of the Beverley Civic Society, who was born into a family of leading industrialists in the town. Her father was at one time chairman of the Beverley Civic Society, and Pat the society's Secretary. Her interests were wide but her abiding interests were photography and the history of Beverley. She enjoyed research, keeping records and in 2010 produced a book, with Margaret Sumner, entitled *Beverley Through Time* which included many of her photographs. She worked on various successful projects with fellow historian John Markham.

Over the years Pat, a prominent member of Beverley Photographic Society, amassed a vast collection of photographic slides of Beverley (now in the archives in the Treasure House) which recorded the many changes which took place in the town both before and during her lifetime. She was always generous in sharing her knowledge and many members of the town enjoyed her illustrated lectures. She encouraged others in their researches and was always prepared to lend out her slides for talks or publications.

During the last few years, ill-health prevented further involvement in recording the town's history. She died in her sleep on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and her funeral took place in the Minster on 9<sup>th</sup> May. The Civic Society is very grateful to Pat for all the help and inspiration she gave to so many people who love Beverley and its history.

## **Membership**

Membership has increased steadily during the year, but sadly we have lost a few who have passed away. We are still eager to encourage younger members to join. Has anybody any ideas how to achieve this? One idea might be for members to ask their younger relatives and friends to join.

Wendy Usher-Bacon  
Membership Secretary

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

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

In 2017 Beverley Civic Society was asked by Hull Civic Society to join in Hull's enormous programme of Heritage Open Days (the largest in the country) and we were delighted to accept. All over the country and across Europe buildings of interest are open to the public, with additional walks, talks and events.

Beverley Civic Society is joining Hull for this venture again in 2018. The 'Openings' in Beverley will be concentrated on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September. We have 24 events crammed into those two days: open houses such as Norwood House, open schools (the High School and the Grammar School), walks around historical areas, and talks. The detailed guide and programme will be ready in early August. So plan to be in Beverley that weekend.... NO CHARGES, EVERYTHING IS FREE.

The national theme this year is Extraordinary Women who are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Prof Barbara English**  
*King Charles I and Beverley*



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.

### **The Civic Society's database...**

...holds information about members' names and addresses and in some cases bank details if they pay their subscriptions by bankers order or direct debit. If members wish to know what details are held, please ask the Hon. Secretary at [prhopkins@prhopkins.karoo.co.uk](mailto:prhopkins@prhopkins.karoo.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 Autumn 2018 Newsletter is  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018  
Please note this date in your diary if you are likely to contribute**

**Quarterly deadlines are usually the last days of February, May, August and September, unless advance notice is given otherwise.  
In this case please note the slightly earlier date above.**

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

[www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk](http://www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk)

## **Day Outing to Hovingham Hall and Nunnington Hall**

On Wednesday, 20th June, the Civic Society is taking a coach to Hovingham and Nunnington in North Yorkshire.

We shall leave at 9.30 from Norwood, as in the past, for Hovingham Hall, where coffee will be served on arrival. We shall then have a conducted tour of this Palladian house (1750-1770), the seat of the Worsley family and childhood home of the Duchess of Kent. This is a private tour as the public are only allowed in during the afternoon. There is an excellent collection of pictures and furniture. The riding school, the Samson hall, the drawing room and the vaulted ceilings add to the interest on the ground floor.

Lunch (ham, quiche and a variety of salads) and tea or coffee will be taken in the Worsley Arms, opposite the Hall, and then the coach will take us to picturesque Nunnington Hall, beside the river Rye, for a tour at 2.30.

This 17th century manor house with magnificent oak panelled hall, haunted room and attics and the fascinating Carlisle Collection of 22 miniature rooms, fully furnished to reflect different architectural styles, has a beautiful setting. The gardens are very pleasant, including the walled tea garden.

We shall leave at 4.30 to arrive in Beverley about 5.30.

We should have plenty of time to relax between the events and wander around outside.

We are taking a smaller coach than previously so it will be advisable to book early. The last date to apply will be 6th June.

The cost, to cover everything, will be £38. Please make cheques payable to 'Beverley Civic Society' and send with form to: Ann Spedding, 10 Norfolk Street, Beverley, HU17 7DN (Tel. 01482 881242).

**BOOKING FORM FOR VISIT TO HOVINGHAM AND  
NUNNINGTON**

**WEDNESDAY 20th JUNE 2018**

**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' to Ann Spedding, 10 Norfolk Street, Beverley HU 17 7DN**

**Please note - all bookings to be in by 6<sup>th</sup> June**

**NAME (capital letters please).....**

**ADDRESS.....**

.....

**POST CODE.....**

**TEL.....**

**EMAIL.....**

**I would like to apply for.....tickets at £38 each**

**I enclose a cheque for £.....**

**If there are any problems please contact Ann Spedding on 01482 881242**

**SIGNATURE**

**CIVIC SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER**

**CERUTTI 2, STATION SQUARE,BEVERLEY**

7.00 for 7.30pm.

The Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding will be our speaker

**MENU**

Starters

- 1.leak and watercress roulade with smoked salmon and fresh salmon filling.(g/f)
- 2.king prawns In lemon butter.(g/f)
- 3.cauliflower and cheddar cheese soup
- 4.smoke Bacon and chicken salad.

Main course

- 5.cerutti2 fish pie
- 6.chicken and asparagus and white wine sauce.(g/f)
- 7.trio of fish fry.
- 8.chicken with a fresh tomatoe sauce with rich. (g/f)

Served with vegetables and potatoes.

Dessert

- 9.creme brulee with red fruits.(g/f)
- 10.treacle sponge with custard.
- 11.cheese and biscuits.

Tea or coffee with chocolates.

Cost-- £29.50 Inc vat.

Name:

Starter:

Main:

Dessert:

Diet:

Group:

Please return to Wendy Usher-Bacon  
30 Queensgate, Beverley HU17 8NW  
by October 19th 2018  
Any problems ring 07970 886479