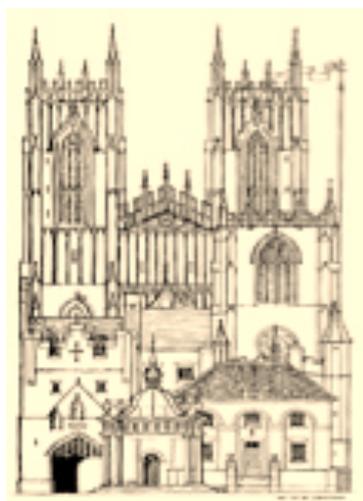


# Beverley and District Civic Society

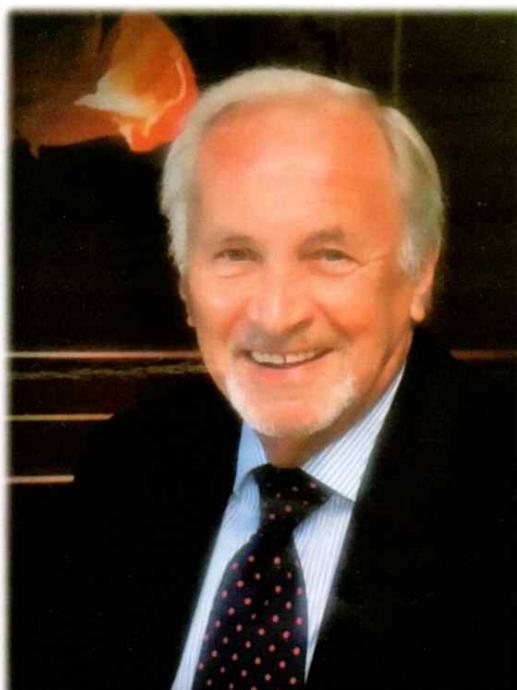


## NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019

**John Bird**

**1939 - 2019**



John was born on the 3 June 1936, the son of a well-known Barnsley family, and spent all his school days in Barnsley until he joined the Army at 18 to fulfil his National Service. On returning to Civvy Street he went to St Lukes Teacher Training College in Exeter, followed by a year at the 'Rose Bruford Drama School' in Kent, returning to Barnsley to start his teaching career in 1959. He spent the next 29 years in the areas around Barnsley, Huddersfield and Hull. His first Headship appointment was in 1969 before moving to Colford Middle School and later Eastfield school, both in Hull. On his move to this area in 1976 his family took up residence in Little Weighton.

It was about this time when he had the urge to have a stall on Beverley Market. This might have been encouraged by a bet with a friend but also the fact that his Grandfather had been a Fishmonger on Barnsley Market. Carol, John's wife, relates his first day's profit of £17.00, encouragement enough to progress jointly to opening a shop in Newland Avenue before moving into North Bar Within in Beverley in 1983.

His role as schoolteacher/shopkeeper lasted until 1988 when he accepted early retirement and simultaneously the family moved into Beverley. He quickly became involved in local affairs, particularly with the Chamber of Trade. This was followed by election to the Town Council in 1999 until 2007 and appointment as Mayor in 2001, and he served on the ERYC from 2003-2011. He was appointed Chairman of 'Beverley Renaissance', a government initiative to encourage local groups to promote ideas to improve community involvement. This was music to John's ears having initiated the Festival of Christmas from the humble start of a few stalls in 1995 to attracting several thousands of visitors in 2018. The event became too large and successful and the responsibility was passed to the Town Council, who subsequently handed it over to the ERYC.

The Festival of Christmas encouraged other ideas, eg. (i) the North Bar Celebration commemorating the survival of the North Bar for 600 years (ii) the 'Battle of Beverley' held at Leconfield with the involvement of the 'Sealed Knot' with over 5,000 individuals taking part in mock battles over a period of two days and (iii) The Georgian Week Celebrations culminating in a Costumed Banquet held in the Beverley Minster. John loved such occasions, enabling him to dress and enjoy his Thespian aspirations.

Having joined the Civic Society he was quickly recruited onto the Executive Committee and his experience and enthusiasm was invaluable. The History Boards featured around the town were of particular interest to him, and he spent countless hours seeking suitable locations to meet with the approval of owners and the local Conservation Officer. The provision of these Boards, and the floodlighting of the North Bar, were funded from monies raised by the Festival of Christmas. The Civic Society are now the beneficiaries of a small balance of these funds, to be used to finance further projects beneficial to the town.

John was a dedicated family man married to Carol and had two sons, Jonathan and David, and four grandchildren. His second love was golf which he was playing at the time of his heart attack. Had he lived for just a few more days he would have celebrated his 57th Wedding Anniversary and witnessed the Promotion of his beloved Barnsley Football Club.

He was a man who preferred consultation rather than confrontation and was respected by all with whom he came into contact. He will be missed, not only by his family and friends, but also for his considerable contribution to the Town he so loved.

Dennis Peckett

## Events and Talks for June onwards

Unless otherwise stated, events take place at 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Hall  
non-members are welcome to attend for a fee of £3.00

### Summer outing to Kiplin Hall

**Tue 18th Jun 9:30am - 6:00pm**



An all day outing into North Yorkshire, to visit **Kiplin Hall, a Grade 1 listed Jacobean house by the River Swale, near Richmond.**



Thank you for coming to our talks this year. As you know we now have a break until September but we start again **on 12<sup>th</sup> September** with Dr David Bostwick explaining the meaning and significance of the 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 **13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>h</sup> September**. Programme will be published soon.

**20<sup>th</sup> September, 7.00 for 7.30pm**  
**Beverley & District Civic Society Annual Dinner (see below)**

**10<sup>th</sup> October AGM**



**The Margaret Powell Lecture** will be on **14<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Beverley & District Civic Society Annual Dinner  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September – 7.00 for 7.30pm  
Cerutti 2, Station Square, Beverley**

Guest speaker Rev Canon Jonathan Baker (Vicar at Beverley Minster)

**If you wish to attend, please complete and return the form which is at the end of this newsletter (or enclosed if you receive the newsletter as hard copy)**

- 1– Deep Fried Squid with Garlic Mayonnaise
- 2 – Avocado and Bacon Salad (gf)
- 3 - Leek and Potato Soup (gf)
- 4 – Cerutti 2 Fish Cakes
- 
- 5 - Smoked Haddock, Fresh Spinach and Hollandaise Sauce (gf)
- 6 – Fillet of Pork Diane (gf)
- Red Wine, Tomato, Onions, Mushrooms and cream
- 7 – Trio of Fish Fry
- 8– Coq au Vin with Creamy Mash
- 9– Asparagus Risotto (gf)
- Fresh Vegetables and Potatoes
- 
- 10 – Orange Crème Brulee with fresh Oranges
- 11 – Sticky Toffee Pudding with Butterscotch Sauce and Ice-cream
- 12 - Cheese
- 
- Coffee/Tea
- Chocolates
- 

Price £30 per person including Vat and tip

***Some of the products may contain allergenic ingredients; therefore please ask a member of Cerutti staff for further information***

## **TOWN CENTRES DECLINE OR OPPORTUNITIES**

Decades ago commentators were making the point that rigid zoning of land uses was acting against natural organic growth, contrary to the way Towns have evolved.

This cautionary warning was never heeded and now the change in the retail sector policies created by the Land Use Classes Order which prescribes acceptable uses needs to be more adaptable.

Town centres are under threat from online shopping, out of town retail and permitted development. Coupled with burgeoning rents and leasehold constraints the prospects look bleak. Planning policies need to be more flexible allowing market halls, pop-up shops, internet cafes, galleries, museums, craft workshops, gyms and surgeries. Town centres need to become exciting, smart and a centre for the community and much more pedestrian friendly.

Beverley is in a unique position because it is already named as one of the best places to live, but it can not rest on its laurels. It will need to be much more flexible in its retail planning policies in future. The Civic Society has campaigned for years for better design, less clutter of the street scene and has opposed any proposals which would be likely to detract from the Conservation Area. Restriction of car numbers and movement in the centre is becoming more necessary to reduce pollution and give greater priority to pedestrians.

It is the role of the Local Authority to coordinate its departments to implement a comprehensive policy for the town centre. This most sensibly would include an overall coordinator or town centre manager who would ensure linked decision making and protocols, in turn ensuring that staff changes did not affect the implementation of established policies.

Looking at the future, change is inevitable. If centres are to remain as the community hub there needs to be more people living there. Accommodation in empty spaces above shops can not only house people but cross-subsidise the retail activities allowing a lowering of rents for retailers. There are problems with access to upper floors, especially where listed buildings are concerned, but the present waste of useful space has to be addressed.

Beverley has to be active and aware of the need to consider different but compatible uses in the centre. This is a particularly opportune time because the Local Plan is being reviewed. It is difficult to wade through the masses of consultation documents which are published. The Civic Society Executive is keeping an eye on progress but the onus is on everyone to be aware of the changes ahead.

Michael Hildyard

### **Heritage Open Days...**

...this year are Friday 13 to Sunday 15th September. We have a number of places open, with a special emphasis on Highgate, and on Rowley church and manor and their connection with Risby. If any members would like to volunteer as stewards for open buildings, that would be great. There would be two shifts, 9.30am to 1.00pm and 12.30 to 4pm. We use City of Culture Volunteers, who are admirable, but it is good to have Civic Society members too. If you are interested in stewarding, please reply to the website <http://www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk/contact/html>

## **The 'FREEDOM' of BEVERLEY WESTWOOD by Norman & Susan Walker**

**Privately printed 2019**

Susan Walker was for many years the Pasture Masters' Clerk and walks every day on Westwood with her husband Norman. Their knowledge of all aspects of the Pastures is formidable. Now they have produced this splendid book for friends and family. It ends with Susan's account of Westwood during different seasons, and she has kindly given us permission to reprint this. Here is 'Summer' for our Summer Newsletter. Other seasons will follow.

"Summer - Wild pink and white roses ramble over hawthorn trees, the elder trees dangle heavy clusters of green elderberries. Sycamore trees line the roadsides their keys turning pinkish brown and all the different trees present their summer dress in so many shades of green. The grass grows longer and is topped by the neatherd. The horse racing season is in full swing and Westwood is invaded by coaches and cars but it is good to see so many people enjoying the beauty and fresh air, walking, riding, playing games, picnicking and, of course, the horse racing with the horses thundering round the track and the cries of the crowd filling the air with excitement.

As summer days begin to shorten, small yellow flowers known as Ladies Fingers appear and 'trembling grass' has tiny balls which bob about in the wind. Delicate pale blue Harebells are scattered about and the Bramble is covered in flowers followed by the green fruit forming. Into late August and yellow Coltsfoot cover parts of the pasture like bright stars and it is also sprinkled with white and pink clover. Early September, elderberries hang like bunches of little black grapes, brambles are plentiful, black and shiny - hawthorn trees have a red haze of scarlet haws."

Barbara English

## **FORESTS, WOODS AND TREES**

The East Riding of Yorkshire has fewer trees than any other English county, which always seems surprising and also worrying. Suddenly there seems to be a national will to increase trees in the UK, driven by worries about climate change, species extinction and deteriorating air quality. The government this May offered millions of pounds for tree planting; we are inside the projected Northern Forest; the Woodland Trust works to increase trees in our area; and ERYC is part of HEYwoods, an organisation that has recently planted 100,000 trees in Hull. Parish councils are interested in tree planting to offset the effects of the much needed house-building. Your Executive Committee is to discuss whether we should become more involved in the greening of our district, and would welcome members' suggestions and comments on this issue, either to individual members of the Executive or most easily through the Society's website <http://www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk/contact.html>

Barbara English

## Mystery picture from the Spring 2019 newsletter

### Last month's Mystery Picture



The answer is William Middleton, foremost builder/architect of Beverley in the 18th century, who built 2 Highgate (his first known house), modernised the Beverley Guildhall and the Beverley Arms, and designed many other still surviving Beverley houses. His portrait hangs in the Magistrates' Room of Beverley Guildhall.

### This month's Mystery Picture



Photograph by Kloskk Tyrer

**Where is this? Whose coat of arms is it? What does the motto *Honi soi qui mal y pense* mean?**

Answer in the Autumn newsletter

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Previous newsletters are available to view at  
<http://www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk/newsletters.html>

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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 2019 Newsletter is  
**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019**

**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 December, unless advance notice is given otherwise – which may  
sometimes be the case with in August given changing holiday dates.**

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

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

**Beverley & District Civic Society Annual Dinner**  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September – 7.00 for 7.30pm**  
**Cerutti 2, Station Square, Beverley**

Please use the number next to the item in the menu printed in the newsletter to indicate your choice on the form below.

Then return this completed form to:

**Wendy Usher-Bacon, Beaver House, 30 Queensgate, Beverley, HU17 8NW** together with a cheque made payable to *Beverley & District Civic Society*. Forms and payment must be received before the 13th September, include a S.A.E if you require a receipt

Wendy can be contacted on 01482 871908 or 07970 886479 with any special requirements.

name (as it is to appear on table)	Starter	Main	Desert	Special Diet