



Beverley and District Civic Society

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017

The Executive Committee of the Beverley & District Civic Society

For the quarter ending 30th Nov 2017 here is a summary of some of the matters discussed by your Executive Committee:

“History Boards”. Progress continues. Several members of the Executive Committee continue to design and manage production of these, as well as choose appropriate sites. Planning permission, as needed, is being obtained.

“Pride in our Place”. Work is beginning for this day in June 2018. Conservation Areas established in Beverley 50 years ago are likely to be our focus this year. Beverley's September Heritage Open Days will run again in 2018.

Membership of our Society is 201.

Elwell painting reproductions. Discussed several times with the aim to repair and reframe as necessary.

Mrs Caroline Lacey - the new Chief Executive of the ERYC – spoke at our annual dinner on 3rd Nov (a report of this appears later in this newsletter).

The programme of Open Meetings for 2018 was presented by Executive Committee member Diana Randle. The meetings looked very interesting in prospect. The location of meetings, a difficulty following flooding in St Mary's church hall, now seems to be resolved.

Coronation Gardens. Commuted Sums, a source of revenue obtained through the ERYC, have now been provided and the restoration of the fountain in the Gardens is progressing.

Communication with you, our members, is still being discussed. Our aim continues to be to have the Quarterly Newsletter issued via email to all those who are able to receive it by that method.

We have been happy to welcome a visit, in prospect, by members of Selby Civic Society for 2018.

Gerald O'Callaghan (Minute Secretary)

PTO

The Secretary writes...

'Beverley – my favourite market town'. In his new book, 'Britain's 100 best railway stations', Simon Jenkins talks about the station at Beverley. He has obviously been to Beverley to do his research for he declares that Beverley is his favourite market town. Another high accolade.

After several months when St Mary's Church Hall was out of action as a result of flooding it should now be back in use from 1st December. Thus, public meetings of the Civic Society should for the foreseeable future take place in the Church Hall.

Pamela Hopkins

Membership

It's that time of year again: subscriptions are due. If they are not received by the end of December I will assume the member does not wish to rejoin the society and will remove the name from the membership list.

Wendy Usher-Bacon
Membership Secretary

Beverley Civic Society Annual Dinner 2017

47 members and guests attended the annual dinner at Cerutti 2. Michael Hildyard was Master of Ceremonies. David Bacon said grace. The evening was considered to be the best we have ever had. Food was delicious, as usual, served by Tina and her team. Caroline Lacey, our guest speaker and Chief Executive of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, gave a very interesting talk about her new post and all the extra duties she is expected to carry out (see the report below). Michael Hildyard, Vice Chairman, gave a vote of thanks. Also attending were two members of Hull Civic Society, Mr & Mrs John Netherwood, who organised the very successful Hull Heritage Open days which included Beverley. They were very impressed with the evening and our society.

Wendy Usher-bacon.
Annual Dinner organiser

Report of Caroline Lacey's talk at the 2017 BDSC Annual Dinner

Caroline took up her post as Chief Executive of East Riding of Yorkshire Council in April 2017. Almost immediately afterwards the snap general

election threw her in at the deep end since she also had responsibility as the Returning Officer.

She went on to explain that as a trained accountant she had ultimate responsibility for the workings of the Authority on a day to day basis and that the Council worked closely with a range of both public and private sector partners in delivering services across the East Riding. She readily admitted that the complexities of the planning system in particular were an eye opener. Through her past experience with the council's financial services, she explained the difficulties of coping with the changes in legislation affecting housing, social care, care of the elderly and maintaining adequate staff levels. She explained the latest position with the Grovehill Site and the ongoing position with the park and ride and recent applications for housing north of the SE Bypass. The One Yorkshire Devolution negotiations, which the Authority is involved with, still has much further to go before consensus can be reached.

In response to questions Caroline dealt with the up-to-date situation on negotiations on the last topic, including the position of the West Riding Councils, Sheffield and the possibility raised by a questioner that a Humber Bank organisation would make more sense since there was an obvious common economic interest. The lack of affordable housing was raised and although the Authority had built properties itself, the way that rent level control was set centrally made it difficult to invest in more social housing provision.

In the summing up Caroline looked forward to continuing the various contacts with her and the East Riding Officers and members of the Civic Society Executive, which has existed over many years. At the end of the talk she was given a fully deserved round of applause after an interesting and stimulating talk leaving many with an appreciation of the many activities undertaken by the Unitary Authority.

Michael Hildyard
Vice Chairman, Beverley and District Civic Society

Letter to the Editor

Many thanks for your, as usual, interesting Newsletter. It is 72 years tonight [August 15th] that I danced in Beverley Market Place to celebrate V.J day with a girl from Bishop Burton called Marjory Ellerington. It was two years previously that I had been discharged from the Royal Navy on Compassionate Grounds to manage the family farm. I had joined the newly formed Humber Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in April 1939 as an Ordinary Seaman aged 17 and a half and on mobilisation to Chatham Barracks one week before war was declared was told that we were going for the duration of the war. I may be the last surviving member of that Volunteer Reserve.

With Best Wishes for the future,

John Dunning

PTO

Beverley Civic Society's comments for the Public Consultation on the Jocks Lodge junction, Beverley



Imagery ©2017 Google, Map data ©2017 Google 200 m

General Observations:

There is insufficient information available to make an informed judgement on these proposals.

We are surprised that there is no reference to the research conducted by Pell Frischmann commissioned by ERYC. We understand from their two reports concluded that there was no need to undertake any major works whilst the current Beverley Integrated Transport Policy was in force.

How do the present proposals fit into the Beverley's Integrated Transport Policy? Comment has been made by a Beverley councillor that these proposals are "the final piece of the jigsaw". We doubt this as there are in process many developments, eg new housing south of the Minster, the Park & Ride, and any future actions undertaken on the A1079, which will affect traffic in this area. Furthermore, for many years, the Civic Society, independently and through Renaissance, has consistently queried the lack of use of the traffic management software for comprehensive study of future movement in the Town. At one point Renaissance was asked to fund the run of the software which is now controlled by consultants. We were told that this overall evaluation would be delayed to allow analysis of the traffic on the Southern Relief Road. Would it not now be prudent to look at traffic movements generally in the Town now that the SRR is operational, and also the considerable future influence of the Park and Ride on circulation in the Town Centre?

Many of the problems emanate from the design of the SRR, and in particular, the traffic problems associated with its exit roundabouts onto Victoria Road. There is nothing in these documents that addresses this problem. Traffic on

the suggested left turning slip road would still have to give priority to the traffic travelling from Beverley.

There are inevitably traffic build-ups at certain peak times from increases in background and commuter traffic. Are they currently so much of a problem?

Further points:

Any improvements must take account of future developments and therefore be planned for the long term, and not a 'quick-fix' solution. We would suggest that none of the four proposals would solve the problems outlined here and, if we accept the traffic consultants' report, none of them is necessary, although further work on the existing signalling at Jock's Lodge is to be recommended.

Looking at the A164, major pinch points on the A164 south of Beverley are the two roundabouts with the B1232 at Waitrose/Papas and at Great Gutter Lane. The other roundabouts (Skidby and Castle Hill) on the A164 with their dual approach lanes appear to work well, and more dualling would have little positive effect on these junctions, and may exacerbate any problems at the Jock's Lodge junction.

One query we have re all the outlined dualling proposals: How would dualling starting from the Victoria Road roundabout (Morrison's) ease the congestion problem as at present the single carriageway would remain on the bridge over the A1079?

Finally:

The needs and safety of non-car drivers need to be addressed, ie cyclists and, as importantly, pedestrians.

Any large scale civil engineering works unfortunately will inevitably use much unallocated land, and must not provide any opportunity for further housing developments in the area.

The Development Group

PTO

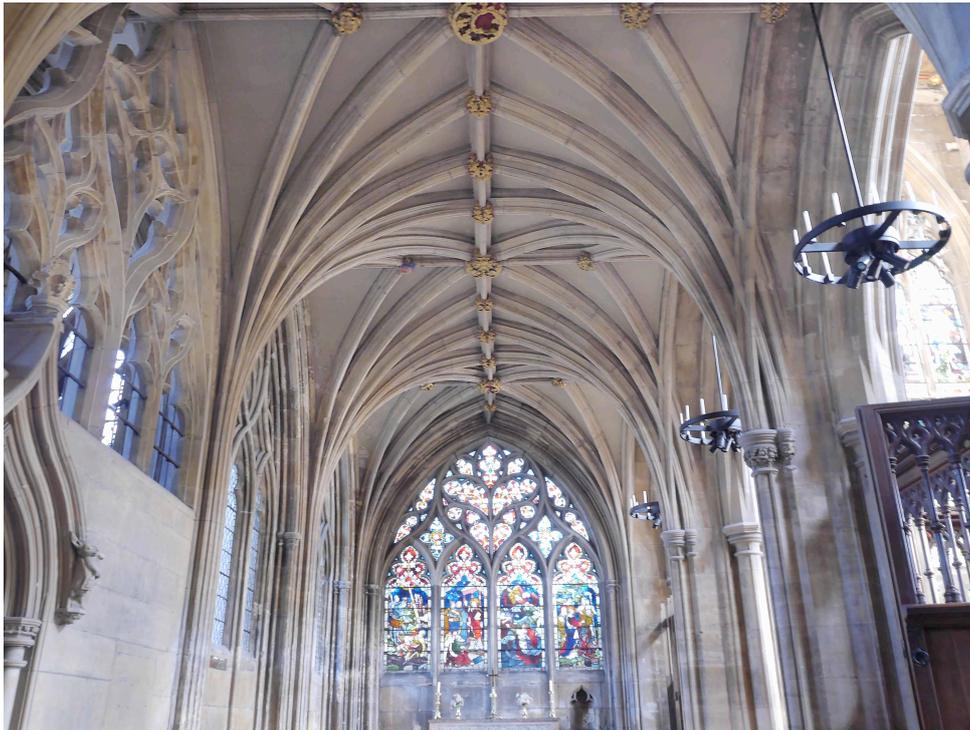


Photo by John Duncan

**Report of the Civic Society Open Meeting on Thursday, September 14th ,
2017
'St Mary's: the glory of medieval architecture'**

The Open Meeting took place most appropriately in the Church itself and the first speaker was Louise Hampson from the Christianity and Culture Centre attached to the History Department at York University. She took her audience through some of the reasons why St Mary's Church, North Bar Within, is considered to be among the most important parish churches in the country. Praised by Nicholas Pevsner for "the gracious beauty of its proportions", it is the product of at least 15 building campaigns, including the 19th century restoration work of distinguished architects such as Augustus Welby Pugin and his son and George Gilbert Scott, indicating its lasting value to the nation. Originally a chapel of ease attached to the Minster, it became a parish church of Norman style from the 1120s, traces of which remain in the arch over the south entrance, for instance. As a guild and city church it was regularly maintained and generously endowed. In the 14th century it reached its zenith with its transformation into a Gothic building, demonstrating the best in design, craftsmanship and construction of that period. In particular St. Michael's Chapel is an outstanding example of the new lighter look in arches and windows, and the quality of building skill is evidenced in the virtual lack of any movement in the structure right up to the present. All was funded by the local guilds who were expressing their wealth and prestige at a time of great prosperity for Beverley. It showed the way to buildings such as King's College, Cambridge, not built until around 1500. The chancel ceiling has an extremely rare collection of portraits of English Kings which were accurately restored during Kenneth Elwell's restoration work in 1936, preserving its enduring

value. The second speaker was the Vicar, the Reverend Becky Lumley, who focused on the ceiling bosses over the nave, which are difficult to view properly from a distance but when seen in close up are a remarkable collection of highly decorative symbols. With spiritual, historical or mythical meaning they are finely executed and again beautifully restored examples of medieval skill and imagination. The beliefs and sense of humour of their creators are particularly intriguing. The Vicar then drew attention to the current need for further restoration of the building in spite of the repairs costing £200,000 carried out recently. A further £5.6 million is still urgently required to address fundamental problems. There is concern that the Church is overshadowed in public attention by the Minster. In another town St Mary's would have no difficulty in gaining support for funding. In conclusion the Civic Society Secretary, Pam Hopkins, said she could not thank the two speakers enough for bringing the building alive. As a welcomer at St Mary's she has come to love it more and more.

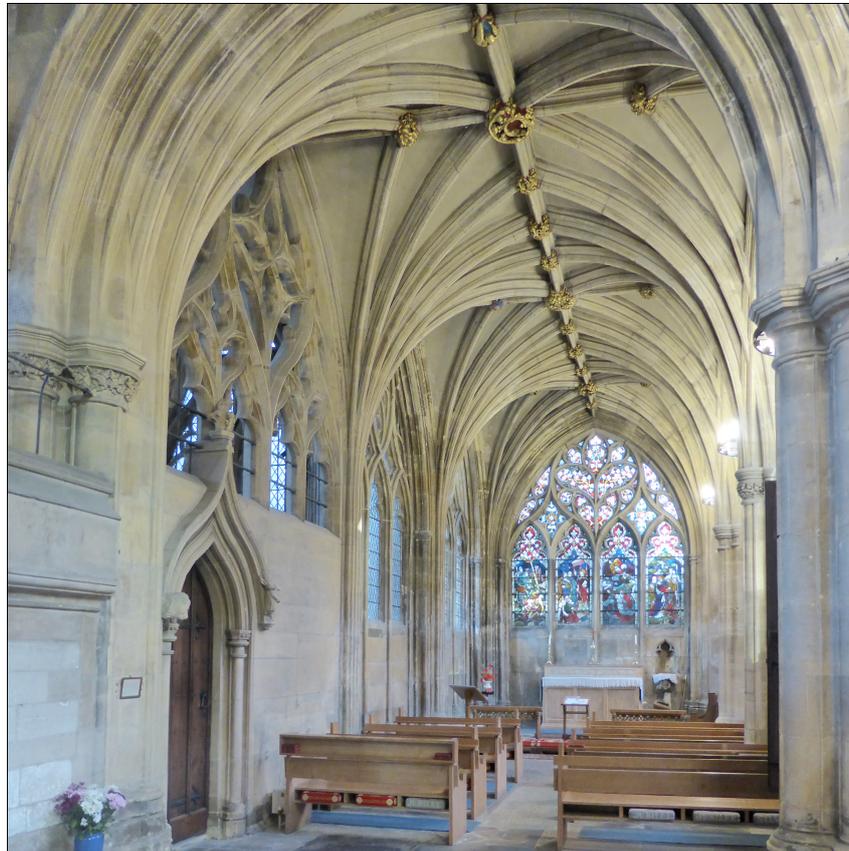


Photo by John Duncan

Rosemary Major

PTO

The Margaret Powell Lecture Dominican friars and the Pilgrimage of Grace



On Thursday 9th November, at St Mary's School, Professor Claire Cross of York University gave a most comprehensive lecture on the history of Dominican Friars in Beverley and their part in the protest against Church Reformation in England in the 1530s, leading to the Dissolution of all religious houses. The subject was highly appropriate to the Civic Society's annual remembrance of the achievements of Margaret Powell in preserving the town's historic buildings. Among her many successes, she played a leading role in saving the Friary building from destruction in the 1960s. Professor Barbara English, in her introduction of the speaker, said that Margaret Powell would have been delighted by this public meeting in her memory and particularly by the presence of her daughter who had travelled all the way from Cornwall to be with us.

Professor Cross told a large audience that the Dominican Black Friars arrived in England less than 10 years after the founding of their order in France in 1215, and remained for over 300 years. Around 1240 they established themselves on the site of the Friary, accommodating the needs of 42 friars in the original complex. The Black Death reduced their number dramatically and only 15 were left at the time of the Dissolution. They preached both in Beverley and the surrounding district, using their Oxbridge educations to advantage. As mendicants they depended on charity, and some wills of the period include bequests to the Friars. However, they were not a prosperous order. Adhering to the orthodox faith, in 1533 they advocated resistance to protestantism and urged Beverley people to take a stand against Henry VIII's break with Rome, by armed means if necessary. Certain friars became active in the rising which was spreading from Lincolnshire in October 1536, when Beverley citizens were encouraged to gather on Westwood to express their solidarity with those embarking on the Pilgrimage of Grace, and then again in January 1537. Their part in the rebellion helped to seal the fate of the religious houses which were closed down in 1539, leaving most of the frairs struggling to make a living. However, the Dominican Prior, Robert Hill, became a chantry priest, receiving £3 and 12 shillings per annum, plus accommodation. He survived another 20 years, dying a committed Catholic in 1558.

In conclusion the meeting was reminded that the Friary building we know, which had continued in use until the 20th century, faced its apparent end on Armstrong Patents factory site. It was suffering from neglect and vandalism with a serious loss of roof tiles. The newly-arrived Margaret Powell quickly became a prominent champion for its rescue. She campaigned tenaciously to have building preservation orders served on the factory owners. Later in the 1970s the preservation work led to a new lease of life for this rare example of England's medieval heritage.



East Riding Archives ERALS: DDX789/1

Rosemary Major

Beverley's first wine bar... and he's on his mobile already...?



PTO

Between 1133 and 1189 a Flemingate family gave Rievaulx abbey a stone house. To have a stone house in Beverley was very unusual, as most houses were built of wood, even in the 1500s. The house also had a great door with a path to the water running past the property, perhaps connected to the Beck.

This house was also unusual because the Rievaulx document says that it belonged to a 'vintner' or wine-seller. He was likely to be a wine merchant, primarily a wholesaler, and maybe his house was of stone to prevent bad lads burrowing in to help themselves, in the same way stone houses in York and Lincoln were built to protect the treasure of Jewish bankers.

Wine came to the River Hull from the continent, mainly from Gascony, and one lucky Sutton family had the duty of tasting it all when the ships entered port. What an arduous task: 'I'm off to the wine-tasting dear, six ships in, don't wait up'.

At this time of year, it is cheering to think that even in the 1100s our fellow townspeople could get wine on their doorsteps. I have no idea where the house was, but maybe one day it will be found by archaeologists – perhaps it is under the Sun or the Lord Nelson, both very ancient pubs. Merry Christmas to everyone.

Barbara English

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

Thursday 14th December 2017

Berna Moody

The History of Theatre in Beverley

This will be followed by wine and mince pies

Thanks to Berna for stepping into the breach as Neil King and Richard Avery, who were to have given this talk, have both been cast in the East Riding Theatre production of *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Thursday 11th January 2018

Rose Horspool

Yorkshire Gardens

An Illustrated View; a personal journey through some of the Yorkshire gardens that are of interest in the development of gardens and their design

Thursday 8th February 2018

John Walker

The Knights Templar

Fact and Fiction. This presentation will examine the rise, fall and 'after-history' of the Knights Templar, a rich and influential medieval organisation founded during the Crusading era in the early 12th century.

Thursday 8th March 2018

Val Wise

Mary Woolstonecraft

The Beverley Connection. Mary Wollstonecraft, writer and advocate of women's rights, crammed a lot into her short complex and unconventional life. She has had a lasting effect on human rights.

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 Spring 2018 Newsletter is **Wednesday 28th February 2018**

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

Between a third and a half 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.

PTO



Where is this in Beverley?
Answer in the Spring 2018 Newsletter

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