

Beverley and District Civic Society

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

HARRY PATRICK FLYNN 1921-2018

Chairman of the Beverley and District Civic Society for 17 years

Many Members of the Society will know of the death of a long standing member, Harry, who was still a member of the Executive Committee at the time of his death.

Harry was born in Beverley at a time of economic hardship when the dole at the time amounted to £1 6s 0d a week. That was the sole income on which to keep a family of four: father, mother, elder brother and Harry. Perhaps it was this Spartan upbringing that made him such a compassionate person, always mindful of the needs of others.

Leaving school at 14 in 1935, Harry went to work as a Junior Clerk in the Town Clerk's Department of Beverley Borough Council on the princely wage of 10/- (50p) a week. He was a happy boy. A second-hand bicycle, the gift of his grandfather, was the means by which he explored the world, and a 5/- camera afforded him the means to record places of interest. At home his parents bought a second-hand piano which triggered his life-long love of classical music. Harry excelled in all his interests, winning prizes for photography, certificates in music and becoming editor of the local magazine for the Cyclists' Touring Club.

He was called up in World War 2 and served six years in the Royal Air Force, including three years in Egypt and other Middle-Eastern countries.

He married in 1947 when there was an acute housing shortage and he and his wife, Marian, had to wait ten years before they were allocated a council house, living in sub-standard accommodation while bringing up a growing family of seven children. Despite this Harry spent many hours in study and gained three excellent qualifications that furthered his career in the National Health Service. In 1950 he entered local politics and became mayor of Beverley on three occasions (1952, 1969 and 1983). He was familiarly known as 'the cycling mayor'. He did not believe that party politics should enter at a local level, but that he was elected to represent all the electorate, with particular emphasis on the poor and needy, and those without a voice.

It was in 1957 that he founded the Beverley Music Lovers' Circle, an organisation that still flourishes today. He was the founder of Beverley Youth Club, and it was in this capacity that I first met him at a square-dancing club started by Harry in the Nurses Home at Broadgates Hospital. What a

remarkable man to finish a hard day's work by leading lead-footed teenagers through the intricate floor work of American dancers.

Marian died suddenly in 1984, but Harry continued his many interests and took on ever more, becoming Chairman of Beverley and District Civic Society for 17 years. Together with Neil King they jointly organised the Beverley Minster Lighting Fund, a scheme which continues to this day.

In 1996 at local government re-organisation the last act of the old Borough Council was to grant Harry the title of Honorary Alderman after 46 years of unbroken services to Beverley. He was made an Honorary Freeman in 2014.

After retirement, when many men might be content to rest on their laurels, Harry decided to travel the world and help those in need. He went seven times round the world, and fitted in 23 trips to Poland, carrying with him items that were sorely needed, learning the language along the way. His late years have been enriched and happy in the company of Mavis, his dear friend and partner, who has supported him and kept him busy, entertained and cared for in a remarkable partnership.

Harry has lived a good life and we shall not see his like again.

Berna Moody

Summary of subjects discussed by your Executive Committee in the months of Dec 2017 and Jan/Feb 2018

We began, sadly, in December 2017 by being silent for a minute at the start of the meeting to remember our recently deceased Executive Committee member Michael Guest. A tribute to him will appear in the Summer newsletter. The situation in Coronation Gardens was diligently followed up again. Permission had been obtained from the Archdiocese of York to excavate (necessary because there was a former cemetery there) in order to lay a pipe to provide a water supply to the already existing fountain. The work will soon proceed.

St Mary's Church Hall had been accidentally flooded and, as our members who came to Open Meetings know, we had to find alternative meeting places. We are now pleased to be back there. The sound system for our visiting speakers and the system for projecting pictures, are now, we believe, much better.

A working group of the Executive Committee has been able to meet Council officials and discuss Rights of Way in Beverley Town. It seems very likely that Golden Ball Passage, near Boots on Toll Gavel, will become a Right of Way on the definitive map.

We are still working to get our Quarterly Newsletter delivered to as many members as possible via email. This will be much quicker and save labour, postage and shoe leather.

The work on content, and then design and production, of History Boards, is progressing (see the report later in this newsletter). Saturday Market now has

one, attached to the wall of The Grapes (formerly The Push Inn) and sites for Wednesday Market and Flemingate have been chosen.

There are now 205 members of our Civic Society, two new members joining recently with another possible five in process of joining.

In the New Year's Honours lists two members of Yorkshire's Civic Societies/Civic Trusts had been awarded MBEs. The Executive Committee believes them to be well earned honours and reflected well on our movement and members as a whole.

Gerald O'Callaghan

News from the Development Group.

ERYC Conservation Officer: Members may be aware that our Conservation Officer, Malte Klockner, has resigned from his post at ERYC, and is moving back to a similar, more senior, post in his native Germany. The Society has had an excellent working relationship with him, and will miss his knowledgeable advice, friendly approach, and considerable contribution to the well-being of Beverley's conservation areas. We wish him well in his new position, and hope that he will return to Beverley from time to time where he will always be welcome. We are pleased to learn from ERYC that his post of Senior Conservation Officer will be maintained, with recruitment already underway, and look forward to working with his replacement. In the meantime, his colleague, Stephen Walker, has taken responsibility for dealing with conservation planning matters in Beverley.

Telecommunication mast: Beverley Arms hotel: Members may be aware that the application to erect this 20 metre high mast in the Beverley Arms car park was refused on the 8th February 2018. However, we expect a new application to be made shortly, and we advise interested parties to remain vigilant.

The Street Scene and Waste Bins: The Society has always been concerned about trying to maintain the quality of Beverley's street scene particularly with regards to reducing 'clutter'. One aspect of this relates to waste bins. We are seeing an increasing number of these put out permanently onto our streets, lanes, and snickets, both within the town centre by commercial premises, and increasingly in residential areas. These are degrading the quality of the environment, often creating pockets of litter and other waste matter, and in places creating an obstruction to pedestrians. Being so prominent with their bright colours they are adversely affecting the attractiveness of our town, especially within the conservation areas. Good neighbourliness would be to accommodate them within the premises, and put them out only on collection days. We would appeal to residents and businesses alike to examine their practices, and to take steps to alleviate the problem. With a bit of good planning, and forethought, there are solutions to be found.

Dick Lidwell

Mary Wollstonecraft, home at last

The famous author of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) lived in the East Riding from 1768 to 1775, and during that time she received the only formal education she was to enjoy. Her biographers, including Clare Tomalin and Janet Todd, knew that she lived in Beverley, but until 2018 no-one knew exactly where. With determination and a bit of luck, Susan Neave and Barbara English have established beyond all doubt that she lived at no.2 Highgate, an existing house of c.1760 built by William Middleton (who also built or remodelled the Guildhall and the Beverley Arms).

A rate book records the Wollstonecrafts paying rates on a house in Highgate (within Wednesday Market 'ward') from 1773, when the book commences, until late September 1775. Having left the town to return to London they were replaced as tenants by Col. Mackenzie, followed by Mr Marmaduke Brown. In 1788 the house, with Brown still the tenant, was bought by George Lambert, the Minster organist, who moved in some years later. The Highgate house remained the home of the Lambert family until the death of George's son, George Jackson Lambert (also the Minster organist) in 1880, long enough for census returns, directories, deeds and other records to make it certain that this particular house was the present no.2.

The only known record of the Wollstonecrafts' tenancy is the rate book: luck comes into our discovery, as some pages of the book have been torn out, and had the vandal taken different pages, we would never have known in which house Mary Wollstonecraft lived.

Susan Neave and Barbara English



Photo by Dick Lidwell

Heritage Open Days, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th September 2018

Heritage Open Days, national events of which the Beverley section is run by Beverley Civic Society, are not too far away now. We have a growing programme of open buildings, walks, talks and events. This year the national theme for Heritage Open Days is 'Extraordinary Women', so the Society is featuring twelve women with Beverley connections: St Hilda abbess and teacher, Johanna Crossley townswoman, Mary Wollstonecraft radical feminist, Elizabeth Lambert musician and artist, Mary Braddon novelist, Mary Elwell artist, Eva Collet Reckitt communist and bookseller, Winifred Holtby author, Nellie Collinson innkeeper, Hilda Lyon aeronautical engineer, Margaret Powell councillor and conservationist, and Pat Albeck, textile designer. The programme will be distributed in August, and our extraordinary women will be described more fully in September.

Barbara English

Beverley's American Refugees: 'Liberty's Exiles'



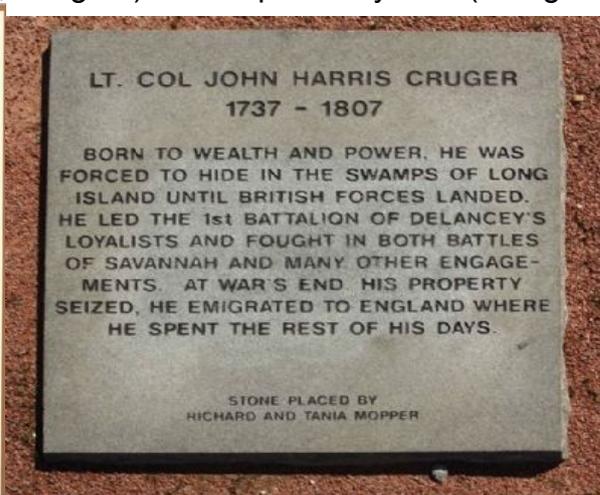
In 1783 the British recognised they had lost the American war of independence and signed the Treaty of Paris. The war and the defeat left American 'Loyalists', perhaps 60,000 of them, in a very difficult position. As supporters of George III and Britain, their possessions were confiscated and many of them left America for Canada, the West Indies, or the United Kingdom. Several came to Beverley, the most famous being the immensely rich Brig. Gen. Oliver de Lancey from New York, who lived in Highgate and is

buried in Beverley Minster. The Loyalists received some compensation from the British Government, and (with their other funds from outside America) were able to afford large Beverley houses.

Letters from de Lancey in New York, written 1753-1755 (before the war) to his married sister Lady Warren of Firlie near Glyndebourne, are in the East Sussex Record Office. Dealing with her American property, he mentions his sale of her slaves, naming Bacchus, Jupiter, Quashy (£60 each), John and Sarah. The slave Old Will was in de Lancey's hospital.

De Lancey's son-in-law John Harris Cruger, another vastly wealthy New Yorker with West Indian connections, also came to Beverley, and for several years lived in the house now called North Bar Chambers. In 2018 the hottest theatre ticket in London is for the musical *Hamilton*, the story of one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Alexander Hamilton was an illegitimate orphan in the West Indies, and he was rescued, employed and educated by the Cruger brothers, Nicholas and our John Harris Cruger. Letters between Hamilton and both Crugers are in the Library of Congress, Washington DC.

As you wait at the North Bar traffic lights, you might remember those exiles who came to Beverley. As well as de Lancey and Cruger, other late 18th-century American Loyalists came here, their biographies and houses all researched by David and Susan Neave: the families headed by Brig. Gen. George Garth (The Gables, Lairgate) and Capt. Henry Law (Keldgate Manor).



A De Lancey soldier, in green uniform

Marker at The American Revolution Memorial, Savannah, Georgia



North Bar Chambers, once home of John Harris Cruger



25 Highgate

Report on the Civic Society Open Meeting on December 14th, 2017 *Theatre in Beverley*

Once again our local historian, Berna Moody, opened the festive season with an appropriate subject, the history of the theatre in Beverley. Despite short notice she gave an entertaining and informative account, beginning with the miracle plays performed from the 12th century outside the Minster, such as those connected with St John of Beverley. By the 14th and 15th centuries local guilds were presenting a series of religious and morality plays on carts. Male players would take women's parts which, along with the introduction of the "fool", can be seen as precursors to pantomime. Records show that the Grammar School, originally situated close to the Minster, also served as a song school. On feast days such as St Nicholas's, pupils performed religious plays in the Minster, the Reformation terminating such enactments in 1541.

In 1747 Beverley's first theatre was built in Wood Lane. It catered for a range of events, but finally it was converted to a Methodist Chapel, visited several times by John Wesley. John Courtney's diaries speak of the variety of public amusements available in Georgian times. The Assembly Rooms, originally built for dinners and balls, had by 1804 an 88 foot extension for theatrical performances. Visiting actors from Richmond and York augmented the local performers in entertaining the gentry, who thronged Beverley during the racing season. In 1855, Mary Braddon, with the stage name of Mary Seyton, moved to Beverley. Defying prejudice against women on stage, she appeared in various productions including the pantomime *Humpty Dumpty* and the play *Still Waters Run Deep*. She also rode in horse races, painted, wrote poetry and operatic librettos.

Theatres sprang up in Cross St, Keldgate, Toll Gavel and Lairgate. The last opened in 1804 and saw many successful performances including those by the 'Young Gentlemen of the Grammar School'. However, the noise made by audiences emerging late in the evening led to the Theatre's closure and demolition in 1844. The bricks were used for the front of the Telegraph Inn, in Station Square. By the mid 20th century a number of non-conformist chapels were converted to general social use and stage performances, one being the Memorial Hall in Lairgate. More recently the East Riding Theatre has found a

dedicated home in the old Baptist Chapel in Lord Roberts Road, where good drama is flourishing. The evening's enjoyment was completed with the usual wine and mince pies.

Rosemary Major

The illustration below is of Elizabeth Braddon

By Desire of the Young Gentlemen of the
GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Theatre, Beverley.
On *WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 28th, 1817,*
Will be presented (first time) the New, popular, and interesting Drama, of
THE SLAVE,
Written by T. Morton, Esq. Author of "Speed the Plough, &c."—The Music composed by Mr. Bishop.—The new Scenery Painted by Mr. Booth.

Governor of Surinam Mr WILLIAMS Captain Clifton - Mr CHESTERTON Captain Malcoim Mr YARNOLD Lindenberg - Mr LEE Sharpset - - - Mr NEVILLE Fogrum - - - Mr BOOTH Sam Sharpset - Mr RAYNER Slaves Messrs BLAKEY & THORLEY Planters Messrs WRIGHT & JBLAND	Gaoler - - - Mr HARDCASTLE Gambia - - - Mr FAULKNER Mrs Lindenberg Mrs RAYNER Miss Von Frump Mrs DARLEY Zelinda - - - Miss WOOD Stella - - - Mrs LEE Slaves Mesdames BLAND, NEVILLE, and Miss BLAND
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END OF THE PLAY,
Pretty Little Ladies' Chit Chat,
BY MR. RAYNER.

After which, the Petite Comedy, (in one Act) of
Three Weeks after Marriage.

Mr Drugget - - Mr WILLIAMS Sir Charles Racket Mr FAULKNER Woodley - - - Mr LEE	Lady Racket - - Mrs FAULKNER Mrs Drugget - - Mrs DARLEY Nancy - - - Miss WOOD Dimity - - - Mrs RAYNER
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A COMIC SONG, CALLED
"Manager Strut and his Quizzical Family," Mr. Rayner.
To conclude with the Farce of the
Sleep Walker.

Sir Patrick Macquire Mr NEVILLE Squire Rattlepate Mr LEE Alibi - - - Mr WILLIAMS Spy - - - Mr BOOTH Jorum - - - Mr BLAND	Thomas - - - Mr CHESTERTON Somno - - - Mr RAYNER Mrs Decorum - Mrs DARLEY Sophias - - - Miss WOOD Betty - - - Mrs RAYNER
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Boxes 8s. Half 1s. 6d.,—Pit 2s. Half 1s.—Gal. 1s. Half 6d.
Doors to be opened at Six o'Clock, and the Performance to begin precisely at Seven.
Places for the Boxes and Tickets to be had of Mr. WATSON, Painter, Market-Place,
and Tickets, of Mr. WILLCOX, Toll-Gavel.

M. TURNER, Printer, Beverley.



**Public Meeting on Thursday, 11th January, 2018
Yorkshire Gardens**

Our speaker, Rose Horspool is a teacher of art and design who since 2005 has run Vista with her husband Robin. She gave a wide ranging account of the history of gardens, comparing the Egyptian enclosed courtyard garden with the Greek preference for open landscape settings with temples to their gods. These contrasting styles have influenced design ever since.

The enclosed space is the basis of the paradise garden where order and peace pertain through the formal use of water and planting arrangements. Muslims introduced this style to Spain where it is still evident at Granada, for example. Adopted by Christians in their cloisters, this concept spread through Europe as a place for contemplation, as well as the growing of plants for culinary and medicinal needs. Mount Grace Priory has restored examples of such gardens. In the 16th century secular gardens imitated the Italianate style for outdoor spaces through elaborate clipped hedging and structured planting.

With the classical revival, taste turned to the addition of sculpture, temples and then lakes and fountains. By the 17th century Burton Agnes and, on a later and grander scale, Castle Howard exemplified these ambitions. As country estates expanded so did the desire to include these in the scene. The use of the ha-ha created the illusion of a continuous sweep from domestic formality to a rural Eden beyond. The 18th century Romantic Gothic period introduced a desire for glimpses of ancient ruins on garden walks. The terraces at Rievaulx, punctuated by new classical temples, also offer views onto the actual monastery ruins below.

The 19th century brought fresh possibilities using newly-imported exotic plants. Humphrey Repton exploited these exciting arrivals in his herbaceous borders and pots, made possible by the introduction of glass houses. As borders widened, higher hedges and walls became the backdrop for glorious displays inspired by the design work of Gertrude Jekyll and Edward Lutyens, Newby Hall being a good example. In her vote of thanks to Rose, Pamela Hopkins expressed the audience's appreciation for their beautifully illustrated journey through so many centuries on a cold evening.

Rosemary Major



Newby Hall



Studley Royal

Public Meeting on Thursday, February 8th, 2018
The Knights Templar: Fact and Fiction

Dr John Walker of Hull University impressed a large audience at St Mary's Church Hall with his extensive knowledge of the Knights Templar from their historic foundation c.1120 to their later re-incarnation in literature and film. This military order was founded during the Crusades to defend the Holy Land against Islamic forces. In support they were granted lands both in Jerusalem and parts of Europe, including large areas in Yorkshire. However, in subsequent crusades Saladin recaptured much of the crusaders' gains and the last stronghold at Acre fell to the Muslims in 1291.

With their mission lost, questions began over their accrued wealth and rumoured heretical practices. In 1307 all Templars in France were arrested and interrogated. Then in 1308 Pope Clement V, to whom the Templars owed allegiance, ruled that all the Orders be suppressed and some property was passed to the Knights Hospitallers. Though a few buildings have survived,

most Templar houses have disappeared. At Faxfleet a moated site has recently been excavated by Dr Walker's University students, discovering wall foundations, roof tiles and a few potsherds, while the Etton site, dating from 1220, has produced many interesting finds.

Although there is a lack of real evidence for the continuance of the Templars, undeterred admirers have fostered claims for their existence throughout the following centuries. The Larmenius Charter, probably a forgery, charts the Templars' story from the 14th to the 19th century. In the 18th century masonic societies identified with the Templars. The most lasting legend is centred on Scotland where 14th century Templars fleeing France were believed to have found sanctuary in Argyll. However, the discovered grave slabs depicting knights are in fact of later date. The present focus on Rosslyn Chapel, south of Edinburgh as the repository for the Holy Grail has reignited the myths. Dr Walker's explanation is that romantic mysteries, which are difficult to disprove, always hold a fascination for certain people.

Rosemary Major



carving from Rosslyn Chapel

Beverley in Bloom

As a member of Beverley in Bloom and representing the Civic Society, I find it very exciting for us to be a finalist in 'Britain in Bloom'. There are nine finalists in this category and we represent Yorkshire. Judging takes place in the first two weeks of August and the results will be announced at a ceremony in Belfast. Please give any help you can to make Beverley really beautiful by contacting the town clerk in Well Lane.

Wendy Usher-Bacon

Update on The Society's History Board Project.

Members will be aware that a sub-group of the Executive, together with assistance from Beverley's Guildhall museum service, has been engaged in composing and erecting History Boards around Beverley with the objective of raising awareness of both tourists and local residents to the fascinating history of our town.

The first two boards have been in place now for a while, one in North Bar Within and the second on The Grapes in Saturday Market. The next in the series, focusing on the rich history of Flemingate and the surrounding industrial activity of tanning, has just been unveiled in the Flemingate Centre (outside the Superdrug store); the photograph below is of the unveiling ceremony. The Society is grateful to the management of the centre for its sponsorship of this board, and for the co-operation of the owners of The Grapes and St Mary's Manor with the first two boards. The group is working now on producing the next two in the series, one near the Minster, and the second for Wednesday Market.

We hope you will enjoy reading the boards and showing them to your visitors.



From the left: Mike Hildyard, Pamela Hopkins, Richard Lidwell, Barbara English and John Bird of Beverley Civic Society pictured with Graham Tait, Flemingate Centre Manager and Klosk Tyrer of Beverley Guildhall.

Membership

Will members please check that they have renewed their membership for October 2017 to September 2018 as several members have not done so. If you do not wish to renew membership please let me know.

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

Thursday 8th March 2018

Val Wise

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

Thursday 12th April 2018

Open Forum – Ian Harvey

Thursday 10th May

Dr Robb Robinson

The East Riding its People and the Sea

A note from the Editor... Both my laptop and my back-up netbook having died within days of each other, I am typing this LibreOffice, a system new to me. I am still learning how to make it do what I want it to do, especially where images are concerned (like most such systems it thinks it knows better than I do), so apologies for any oddities in this newsletter.

Neil King

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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

Thursday 31st May 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.

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

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 to: Ann Spedding, 10 Norfolk Street, Beverley, HU17 7DN (Tel. 01482 881242) (with form)

**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 6th 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