



BEVERLEY & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2015

Please could contributors to newsletters note that the deadline for copy is always the last day of February, May, August and November, unless notice of a different date is given at the end of the previous newsletter

BEVERLEY AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Beverley and District Civic Society Annual General Meeting will be held at, Beverley Arms, North Bar Within, Beverley on TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER 2015 AT 7.30PM. Nomination forms for office in the Society or vacancies on the Executive Committee can be obtained from, and should be returned to, Mrs Pamela Hopkins, 6 York Road, Beverley HU17 8DP, tel 01482 861836, by Tuesday 29th September 2015.

Agenda

1. To receive apologies for absence.
 2. To approve the minutes of the 2014 AGM.
 3. Matters arising.
 4. To receive the Annual Report.
 5. To receive the Treasurer's Report and receive and approve the Annual Accounts.
 6. To receive the Membership Secretary's Report.
 7. To elect the following Officers of the Society: President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer.
 8. To elect members of the Executive Committee.
- In accordance with the Constitution of the Society, the under-mentioned members will retire at the AGM but will be eligible for re-election:
 Sylvia Ashwell, John Bird, Dick Lidwell, Rosemary Major, Berna Moody, Dennis Peckett, Wendy Usher-Bacon.
9. Any other business.

NOTE : The under-mentioned will continue to serve on the Executive Committee for at least another year:

Barbara English, Harry Flynn, Mike Guest, Jill Jones, Angela Mulford, Michael Hildyard, Pamela Hopkins, Gerald O'Callaghan, Sandy Patience

The Executive Committee

Many subjects have been discussed at the Society's Executive Committee, which meets each month. Many of the subjects are full of interest and allow each of us on the Committee to learn as well as to contribute to the debate. Some current concerns are touched on below.

Committee members have recently produced a document, with the cooperation and agreement of the East Riding's Conservation Officer, setting out the meaning of Beverley's conservation areas and how to preserve them. A map is included with the document. The document will be distributed in the autumn to all householders in the conservation areas. The aim is to encourage greater care of those areas.

A group of the Executive Committee looks at developments in the town and makes comments and representations about alterations to buildings, street furniture, and broader planning projects. The changes proposed by Carluccio's, an Italian restaurant chain, to the former Burton's shop frontage at the corner of Saturday Market; the large housing development proposed for the south of the town; and the design and layout of the East Riding's proposal to put a cycle track across Westwood are examples of current subjects.

The Society's website has been a problem to set up, but the Executive Committee has now commissioned a redesigned website with an editor, who is a member of the Executive Committee, and easier management of the content. The Committee expects an altogether more attractive and up-to-date website in the near future.

There were 237 members of the Society in July 2015. The numbers go up, though slowly. The Society's management is done by the Executive Committee, numbering, at present, 17. Our constitution permits more. Any member who would like to attend an Executive Committee meeting, to see what and how we do things at present, should ask the Minutes Secretary, Gerald O'Callaghan (11 Napier Close, Beverley HU17 7AU; tel 867079). Committee meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month, and last from 7.00pm to 9.00pm, at the Quaker Meeting House in Quaker Lane (off the bottom of Woodlands).

The Beverley and District Civic Society's initial response to ERYC's consultation on the Development Brief for the area South West of Beverley

The Civic Society continues to be disappointed about the high percentage of development allocated to the Beverley area, particularly to the South beyond the Woodmansey Mile which was always regarded as the Southern boundary in the Adopted Local plan, and omitted without any consultation soon after 1996. It is accepted that this allocation is far advanced and it is too late to change (although the Local Plan has still not yet been approved), but nevertheless the Civic Society will continue to make the point that this large amount of development will create environmental problems, during and after construction.

Turning specifically to the brief, we repeat that it is regrettable that development on both sides of the railway could not be considered as a planning entity since they are interlinked by so many common factors.

Acknowledging that it is important to keep to specifics because we do not have the details to be able to substantiate comments about the infrastructure constraints, The Civic Society considers that it is important to ensure that the main focus of the detailed design is creating a community that can have an identity of its own, and not be wholly reliant on the Principal Settlement and appearing as purely an extension into the open land. We feel that a central community area should be established as a focus for the development incorporating the new school, shops, accommodation for the elderly and other essential community services such as medical and dental practices. Ideally this should be located to take advantage of the value of Long Lane as a connector for pedestrians and cyclists. This location, being accessible from all parts of the development, would encourage a sustainable form of development, reducing the need for unnecessary trips by car. It would also put the proposed school nearer to eastern side pupils (with the provision of a railway crossing suitable for both pedestrians and pushchairs), and help integrate the elderly accommodation into the activity area.

We would also hope that the housing layout reflects the need to create an atmosphere of belonging, identity and a unit which is self-contained whilst having effective links to Beverley Town. This philosophy requires the highest quality urban design input. Also we would hope that all detailed submissions are carefully considered, and the subject of detailed consultation, particularly with the existing local residents who will be affected long term by the proposals.

Further we would advocate that the Authority takes the initiative in encouraging the developers to raise their aspirations to produce a distinctive quality scheme, building to the highest environmental and design standards, taking account of other successful developments around the UK, for example the Accordia development in Cambridge and Poundbury in Dorset. This development is an opportunity for the East Riding to show what could be achieved, perhaps by holding a national competition for the design.

As part of this approach we would hope that the green spaces would be designed so as to be integrated into the overall design and throughout the area for easy accessibility for residents, and especially children and the elderly, and linking to existing residential areas so as not to be solely appendages on the periphery.

It would appear that the use of the SE bypass may well take longer to reach its predicted traffic levels and therefore it is difficult to envisage what the continuing effects of traffic movements will be, but it is of some concern that extensive road improvements are envisaged to accommodate the addition traffic accessing the Woodmansey Mile which will be added to the existing mixed traffic.

It is disappointing to read that the document refers to this area as 'being of not of the highest scenic quality' although recognising the importance of preserving views of the Minster and respecting existing field boundaries. The Society has supported the concept of creating a 'Southwood' for many years, and this area of arable land together with its continuation beyond the SRR contributes substantially to the rural approach to the ancient Beverley settlement. We welcome the reference to that due care and investigation will need to be undertaken relating to the Archaeology of the area, as evidenced during the construction of the Southern Relief Road.

Finally we would encourage the policy to preserve the views of the Minster, but are concerned, and rather amused, that the Minster seems to have acquired 'steeples' to replace its lovely towers.

The Development Group of the Beverley and District Civic Society

Comments submitted on behalf of the Beverley and District Civic Society regarding the application by Carluccio's at 1-7 Toll Gavel (former Burton's store). The Society commented initially in June, and subsequently in August following some amendments made by Carluccio's. Our responses to these amendments are shown in italics

We welcome the positive approach taken by Carluccio's management to feedback made earlier by the Society and others as mentioned below.

This is an important building in Beverley's street scene, and care needs to be taken to respect its history. It is representative of the classic design of Burton's stores, and one of Beverley's few remaining examples of interesting 1930's architecture. While Beverley has a reputation for its fine Georgian buildings, it is important to retain examples from other eras.

We are pleased that a new use has been found, and support the change of use to a restaurant with retail outlet. It is a shame, however, that the building is to be divided into two units, thus compromising the original design and use. One hopes that the proposed new columns echoing the style of the upper storey panels are constructed in such a way that they may be removed easily in the future should the building revert to one unit. It is hoped that tenants are found for the additional shop as soon as possible to avoid having an empty shop in this important frontage.

The Planning and Heritage statement fails to acknowledge the history of the building, and we would disagree with the statement 4:16: "1-7 Toll Gavel does not make a significantly positive contribution to the character of the conservation area....". As mentioned above we would maintain that it does indeed contribute significantly to the character of Toll Gavel, and is an important element especially when viewed from Saturday Market, with particular reference to the Art Deco panels on the upper storey, the black granite fascia, pillars and stall riser. We are pleased to see the upper storey retained intact, but would prefer to see black fascia retained also, and not rendered white. This fascia links the building to its base. *Amendment: However, we are very disappointed that it is proposed still to remove the black granite fascia and replace all of it with a white rendered panel.*

The retention of the foundation stones is welcome, though we should like to see the original brass grills retained too, again respecting the history and design of the building. The plans appear unclear as to whether the original black pillars on the Saturday Market frontage and the end column on the Toll Gavel frontage are to be retained. They should be as these are historic features, and again link the base to the fascia. *Amended plan: We are very pleased to see the retention and refurbishment of several important features, namely: the black granite risers and pilasters, the restored brass 'Burton' signs within the risers, and the plinths with the foundation names.* The cast iron corner posts at the junction between Toll Gavel and Saturday Market (where the new door to the

small unit is proposed) are an important detailed feature and should be retained. This detail is unclear from the drawings.

We welcome the retention of the brass coloured powder finish to the new window frames, and the retention of the interior white fluted columns. With regards to lighting; the halo illumination and spotlights for the projecting signs are fine, but the continuous strip lighting of the lower fascia and the large number of up-lighters to the top storey seem excessive and intrusive, and should be resisted. *Amendment: The back and halo lighting scheme is an improvement, and is more in keeping with Conservation Area policy.*

It is important to ensure that the awning box is incorporated into the new fascia as shown, and does not protrude. *Amendment: still unclear on this detail.*

The outdoor seating is acceptable though we would agree with the neighbour's comment that it should be reduced at that end so as not to obstruct their shop entrance. We have advocated previously the need for ERYC to lay down clear parameters with regard to outdoor café use within Beverley, including the use of advertising and sun shades, and repeat this point. *Amendment: We welcome the reduction in the number of external tables and chairs to take account of the neighbouring property's interests, and not to go beyond the entrance. The latter reduction will ease potential congestion at the start of the pedestrian zone given that the seating takes up the full width of the small paver area designed as footpath, there are public seats opposite, and delivery vans enter Toll Gavel at all hours. We repeat our earlier comment that there needs to be a clear policy adopted by the authority with regard to outside seating provision as the present ad-hoc situation is unsatisfactory for the Conservation Area.*

Although we did not comment in our first submission on retention of the curved glass panels either side of the entrance, it seems a shame these are not to be retained as they are a historic distinctive and attractive feature.

At the time of going to press the application was still under consideration by ERYC

The Development Group.

Visit to York. Saturday 27th June 2015.

Over twenty members of the Beverley Civic Society went to York on a blazing summer day, and were met at the foot of Clifford's Tower by two members of the York Civic Trust, Dr. Peter Addyman and Peter Brown. We were treated to a short introduction by our hosts on the tower itself and the immediate surroundings. Peter Brown gave a detailed account of the museum and the two buildings flanking it, and pointed out subtle differences between the two as they were designed by different architects at different times, meanwhile displaying architectural good manners so that they complemented each other. Dr. Addyman then gave a masterly description of the past history of the tower, and certain proposals to improve access to the tower. We then walked the short distance to the river, where a cooling breeze underlined the pleasure to be obtained by a riverside walk, laid out in the 18th century for the delight of members of the polite society then thronging to York as a centre of law, where races, balls and theatres all added to its natural attractions.

We were handed copies of a map of York drawn by Francis Drake in the 18th century on which our route was delineated in blue, and we followed a leisurely path, whilst all the time we were given advice in obtaining co-operation between the local authority and the many pressures placed on such a precious city by the needs and wishes of modern living such as re-development and traffic management. It was obvious that both our hosts had spent much time in building up a good working relationship between conservation officers and the Civic Trust partly by their generous attitude of sharing information on such matters as the pattern of burgage plots, often two plots and an alleyway repeated along certain street scenes.

Peter Addyman also provided some startling statistics on the visitor numbers to the Jorvik Centre, extrapolating from these an educated estimate of the gross amount that visitors spend in the city per annum. He also mentioned the forthcoming publication of a book of which he was co-author on the street pattern of medieval cities - York, of course, being one.

We were shown imaginative uses for redundant churches, one being an educational establishment where children can get hands-on in replica digs to search for bones, pottery and coins, thus engaging the interest of budding archaeologists. Peter talked freely of his early experience in work on the Coppergate site, when interested viewers spent happy hours watching the Anglo-Scandinavian past emerge before their eyes, whilst the actual work was often carried out in extremely wet and taxing conditions. He mentioned that many of the students whose first experience of hands-on archaeology this was, went on to become full-time archaeologists.

We were shown how conflicts of interests had to be overcome, such as the frontage of a large Georgian house being overshadowed by a mighty tree. Apparently the tree has a preservation order on it, though Peter seemed mildly regretful that it obscured the view of the house. Care of every aspect of the city was apparent, even down to the lead rainwater heads of downspouts that are often overlooked. We walked through streets where Georgian buildings or walls survived and modern buildings were skilfully inserted, not as pastiche, but of traditional brick and tile, and which were carefully unassuming.

The result of this master-class, demonstrating extreme care combined with discussions of the need for gentle pressure on the local authorities, led to many halts along the way, and the completion of only half the planned route, but a promise was made for another date next year when Part II will be carried out. Our day out had given us the rare pleasure to see York through the eyes of such experts as the two Peters, and I look forward to the sequel with great anticipation.

Berna R Moody

Wentworth Outing



photo: Liz Groves

The Society's Summer Outing to Wentworth Wood House and Wentworth Castle

Following the Society's February talk on Wentworth Woodhouse, 49 members and guests had a very enjoyable visit on June 5th 2015 to this grand country mansion near Rotherham. After taking in the imposing front facade and then enjoying coffee with cake, we split into two groups to tackle the challenge of viewing a home boasting over 300 rooms. Not all of these are open to the public since the restoration work is still in progress, but we saw the main reception rooms which had been returned to their original glory in the high Baroque style. The house was built from 1725 for Thomas Watson, whose connection with the Wentworths was only through his aunt's marriage into the family which had produced no direct heir. Having also benefited from the large Wentworth fortune, Watson proceeded to set his mark on the site with this prestigious new house. It would become an important asset to his own family, the Rockinghams, and the Whig Party.

Within it is the partial remainder of an earlier Jacobean house built in from 1615. Its surviving rooms are less ornate and more sombre in appearance. A small section of the original exterior can be glimpsed from one inner window and from another a decorated stone archway which would have led to the highway. At this point I wished we had more time to absorb the information in a glass case nearby which documented the rise and fall of its most famous owner, Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford. Although initially regarded at Court as "a northern lad" with dubious credentials, his great ability, application and ambition took him to the highest level as Charles I's administrator. However, a fellow Yorkshire man commented that "Nature hath not given him generally a personal affability" which proved to be much of his undoing. He made many enemies, which finally resulted in his impeachment and execution in 1641. Our guide told us that

it was said that he passed through the archway on his last journey to London to stand trial.

Before leaving we saw the set of a BBC television series which was currently showing, "Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell". Painted over in dark green the library was transformed very effectively to create the necessary atmosphere for the drama. Our coach then took us 6 miles across the valley to Wentworth Castle where a good buffet lunch awaited us before our guided tour of the gardens. The timing for the visit was perfect with the rhododendrons and azaleas at their most glorious. We also saw the recently restored glass house, reopened in 2013. An unexpected addition was the opportunity to see a little of the interior of the house which is now owned by the Northern College for Residential and Community Education. Our guide was keen to give us some of the history which links Wentworth Castle to Wentworth Woodhouse. The estate of Stainborough Castle on which Wentworth Castle now stands was purchased in 1708 by another Thomas Wentworth who, having been deprived of what he felt was his birthright across the valley, determined to outdo Thomas Watson with his own creation, a handsome country seat started in 1711, which became a venue for the entertaining of important Tories.

After a farewell cup of tea, members sank into their coach seats, tired but replete, for the drive back to Beverley. The hospitality we enjoyed had contributed greatly to the day and we owe special thanks to Ann Spedding who set up all the arrangements for us. Unfortunately she was unable to participate in the excursion herself owing to other commitments.

Rosemary Major

Old Waste, Beverley

Recently I had an enquiry from Bernard Sharp of Hull. He said that he had spent 'a few days wandering around Beverley taking in its delights'. His question: 'between Lairgate and Saturday Market is a short stretch of road called 'Old Waste'. Why is the street so named?'

I got in touch with Susan Neave and Berna Moody who came up with the following information.

Susan Neave said that 'Old Waste' seems to mean simply what it says – a piece of ground that was waste at some point, with no buildings on it. There were at least three different areas in Beverley called Old Waste – the one in Saturday Market, one at Becksid (where the Corporation erected a crane) and one in the vicinity of Highgate/Wednesday Market, where standings were let for the Cross Fair.

Berna Moody suggests that they all appear to be a handy area close to markets where the sweepings of the detritus left after a market could be gathered, later to be sold by a town official known in the 1420s as the sweeper or raker of the market. This was a product that had a value to be used as manure to enrich horticultural or agricultural land.

Today the Council refuse vans are often parked in Old Waste during market time and collections of paper, boxes, rotten vegetables and general rubbish is placed in the vans. So perhaps the use of the area hasn't really changed over the centuries.

Bernard has now placed this information on 'Geograph Worldwide' – an online website created to give a comprehensive collection of photographs capturing every part of a given region.

Pamela Hopkins

Forthcoming Public Meetings & Events...

**Please note that meetings from now on,
with the exception of the afternoon meeting on Tuesday 17th November,
will be held in The Beverley Arms Hotel
(where coffee will be available for purchase)
Members and non-members are welcome**

Tuesday 8th September at 7.30pm
Richard Myerscough
Building Stones of Yorkshire Wolds Churches

Tuesday 13th October at 7.30pm
AGM and Open Forum

Friday 23rd October
Annual Dinner

Friday 6th November
Study Day

Tuesday 10th November at 7.30pm
Roger Lewis
Beverley and its Minster: Preserving the Heritage

Tuesday 17th November at 2.30pm in St Mary's Parish Hall
Peter Asquith-Cowan
History of Transport and Communication in the East Riding

Tuesday 10th December at 7.30pm
Berna Moody
Medieval Feasts
Please join us for a festive drink and mince pie after this meeting

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner will be on October 23rd at Cerutti2, Station Square, Beverley, 7pm for 7.30pm. £27 per person. As yet I do not have the menu. Please will members let me know if they wish to come and with whom they would like to sit.

Wendy Usher-Bacon.
Membership secretary.

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Please send material by email if possible: this saves re-typing. However, if you do not use email, no matter – all contributions and letters, no matter how brief, are welcome. **The deadline** for copy to be included in the Winter 2015 Newsletter is **Monday 30th November 2015.**

Please note this date in your diary if you are likely to contribute.

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' shoe-leather and time. 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.

See insert page 11 re the Study Day on Friday 6th November



**BEVERLEY AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY
STUDY DAY**

HOUSING IN A HISTORIC TOWN

Friday 6th November 2013
at the Beverley Arms Hotel, North Bar Within

10.00 Registration in the Elwell Room, Beverley Arms Hotel

10.30 Houses being built now: estate housing, appearance, spaces, construction methods and equipment. Sandy Patience (Chairman, Beverley Civic Society)
Followed by discussion and questions

11.15 Coffee

11.45 Towards better houses: what we should be building for the future. Sandy Patience (Chairman, Beverley Civic Society)
Followed by discussion and questions

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break – own arrangements

14.00 Westwood Park. We are invited to visit the re-development of the old Westwood Hospital site. Representatives of the builders, P.J. Livesey Group, (mission statement 'breathing new life into historic buildings') will be on hand to talk about the new houses and the refurbishment of the older buildings, and we will visit the show houses. This is a chance to see how one of the most significant sites in Beverley is being reused. Please meet at Beverley Arms at 13.45 for the afternoon visit.

16.00 Close

Cost of the day; £12 per person

If you would like to attend the Study Day please complete the tear-off slip below and send it, together with a cheque made out to the Beverley and District Civic Society, and a stamped addressed envelope, to Pamela Hopkins, 6 York Road, Beverley HU17 8DP (Tel: 01482 861836) by 25th October.

Name(s) (please print).....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Telephone no.....

I would liketickets/s for the Beverley and District Civic Society Study Day on Friday, 6 November 2013.

I enclose a cheque for £..... in payment and SAE
(Study Day £12 per person)

Signed.....

Date.....