



BEVERLEY & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2013

What our members think as they recently told us.

The Executive Committee decided, whilst discussing the forthcoming AGM of 8th October this year, that we would very much like to hear a broader range of voices from our membership than is usual at our AGM. After all, it is the one clear chance in the year for quieter people to give us their views. So we agreed on an exercise to help us to hear them.

We asked the attendees to sit in four randomised groups, discuss three given questions for half-an-hour or so, and then feed back their conclusions to the Executive through a spokesperson of their choosing. It was pleasing to see just how freely, given the space, our members can talk about their concerns. And didn't they talk! The noise! Wonderful. This is unified summary of that exercise:

Q1 Why did you join the society?

There seemed to be a general agreement amongst members here that they come to the Civic Society to:

- find out what is happening to Beverley.
- meet similar people.
- enjoy the talks. (Described as excellent, with good speakers.)
- keep an eye on future Council plans for Beverley. (Several referred to the 1970's, and what could have happened then.)
- use the executive to give the opinions of quieter people to the Councils.
- learn more of the history of Beverley.
- raise awareness of disability problems of many kinds.

Q2 What are your present concerns about Beverley?

Some concerns came up several times, in different ways. Listed as issues, they are:

- Housing. Members fear serious overdevelopment, especially by large executive estates, given the nature of the town; and regret the lack of plans for smaller, affordable, low cost housing for first-time buyers and the elderly.
- Flooding. Plans are seen as not taking the water-table into account (especially in the Long Lane area).
- Transport. Members ask why the council does not make more use of traffic-flow IT to evaluate the impact of traffic growth and the future use of the town streets? Why are we still focusing on car use? A Park and Ride is needed! There are worries about the impact of traffic on our old buildings.
- Disability. Members believe that there is a need for more lavatories; more parking bays

- and room around parking bays for off/on-loading mobility appliances.
- The Guild Trail artefacts. There were concerns for their future. Will they be removed/replaced sensitively after road work?
 - The Saturday Market scheme. Feelings ran high about this –it was described as “brutal”. There is concern that laying the setts back properly should be seen as just as important as saving them.

Q3 Is there anything you would like to say to the committee about our work over the past year?

It was good to see that the membership did not hold back on this one! Amongst the general thanks for our work – “good work”, “keep it up”, “it’s all voluntary effort, don’t let the critics get you down!” – some particular projects were praised:

- An excellent visit to Ampleforth and Gilling Castle.
- The good Coronation Gardens scheme.
- The restoration of several wall plaques.
- The Campaign to keep the Setts. (With much support for the town meeting, the sustained press campaign, etc. However, there was some division about the need for the march.)
- The Elwell Trail.

And we were given this advice, and suggestions for improvement:

- Younger members are needed - widen your reach –tell more people, throughout Beverley. Remember the District.
- Some see us as elitist. Can we vary the venue around the town?
- Please develop the web-site: set up interactive emails. You need a blog.
- Make the Newsletter more detailed. Let us know more often what the committee is actually doing. Please wear badges.

THANK YOU, one and all, for being so positive, taking part in our effort to hear you; and making suggestions that we are taking to heart.

Sylvia Ashwell
Committee member.

The Civic Society Annual Dinner

Forty one guests attended the annual Civic Society dinner, held at Cerutti2, Station Square, Beverley. Our guest speaker was Graham Stuart, MP and vice president, who gave an interesting talk about his role as MP and how it affected Beverley, after which he answered, very diplomatically, anonymous questions put to him by members of the society. The photographer took a rare photo of Tom Martin, president, Graham Stuart, vice president, Sandy Patience, chair person, and Mike Hildyard, vice-chairperson, a copy of which has been ordered for the archives. As usual Tina Cerutti provided us with an excellent meal which was enjoyed by all who attended

Wendy Usher-Bacon.

The Civic Society and the Saturday Market proposals



The Civic Society would like to put the record straight about our discussions with ERYC and clear up some of the misleading and misinformed comments made in the press.

There have been setts in Saturday Market for hundreds of years.

When the road in the Market Place was de-trunked in 1980, Humberside County Council received a grant from the Historic Buildings Council (HBC) of £15,000 to repair and reinstate the setts rather than remove them and replace with Tarmac. Some setts were obtained by the County Council from Hull Docks to replace and reinstate the existing setts. The reason for this was the fact that the setts and their subtle curved approach to Toll Gavel were a unique feature of the town and an important national urban design feature, recognised when Dame Jennifer Jenkins, the Chair of the HBC, attended the re opening of the road.

ERYC, who do not have any professional urban designers, asked their engineers to prepare a maintenance scheme and, without any prior public consultation, drew up basically what can only be described as a traffic management scheme. This is not a maintenance scheme, since nothing existing is being maintained - for example, in the same vein as the splendid scheme in North Bar Within, where the Civic Society were consulted from day one - but a complete redesign of the Market Place.

This initial scheme showed the setts replaced by concrete bricks. No amount of debate at a number of meetings could persuade the officers to keep the setts. It was going ahead. It was only when a public meeting was held and a subsequent march that a decision was made to keep the setts. Even then when the Civic Society was called in to meet Councillor Parnaby, the Leader of the Council, Nigel Pearson, the Chief Executive and Nigel Leighton, it still raised concerns about the relocation of the setts, their realignment, the effect on the Market Cross and other important vistas. Unfortunately the bureaucratic machine is difficult to stop.

It has always been the Civic Society's view that a maintenance scheme involving repairing the setts and renewing the pavements in the manner of North Bar Within was all that was necessary, especially as this would retain the character of the square and, more importantly, cost considerably less in the present financial climate.

The Civic Society has been consistent in its view that Saturday Market is a unique space like no other, and to change completely its form and character with a scheme of such magnitude runs contrary to all urban design and historic principles.

The Civic Society was formed 50 years ago to successfully prevent the widening of Hengate and since then has worked tirelessly to keep heritage as high as possible on the agenda. If the Civic Society did not exist, in the absence of local elected Ward Members in the Cabinet who would "guard the guards"? Contrary to some of the misinformed comments in the press, The Civic Society does not wish to preserve the Town in aspic but simply to put the case for retaining what makes the town distinct from other market towns and ensuring that proposals for change are scrutinised in order to meet that important objective.

We will continue to try to keep our heritage at the top of the political agenda.

Michael Hildyard
Vice Chairman, Beverley and District Civic Society

The Proposed Visit to Scawby Hall, Lincolnshire, by Beverley & District Monday 14th July 2014

The Civic Society summer outing is in the process of being arranged, and it may be of interest to members to know a little about this beautiful Hall and Richard Nelthorpe, who built it in c.1605, and his family's links with Beverley. The family still own and occupy the Hall.

The Nelthorpe family apparently originated in Staplehurst, Kent, but by 1580 John Nelthorpe was living in Wawne. By the seventeenth century the family featured in the civic life of Beverley when John's second son Edward, a mercer and grocer, became mayor in 1609. Three of John's sons became members of parliament for the town, Edward in 1640 and James and John jointly in 1645. John resigned his seat rather than participate in the trial of King Charles I, although both had been elected by parliamentary supporters in the town.

John Nelthorpe's eldest son, Richard, moved south of the Humber and settled in Brigg, marrying Ursula, daughter of Martin Graveney of nearby Messingham. By this fortunate marriage he acquired land that enabled him to build Scawby Hall and by 1620 to purchase the Baysgarth estate at Barton-on-Humber.

The family still had connections in Beverley, however, as Edward remained in the town, and by his will dated 2nd December 1623 he left silver tableware, gold rings, two houses in Toll Gavel and £1693 in cash. James Nelthorpe, who died in 1696, then living in Charter House Yard in Middlesex, left two generous gifts for the benefit of the residents of Beverley, one known as 'Nelthorpe's gift' which was £1 a year for the overseers of

the poor of Beverley, out of a rent charge on a farm at Walkington, the property of Henry Boldero Barnard. His second bequest became known as Nelthorpe's Charity. This was an annuity of £10 purchased with a bequest of £200, intended for the poor of Beverley, and was charged on part of the Riding Fields in the parish of St Nicholas. The property charged was part of the possession of Lord Yarborough, and for many years his steward paid the annuity to a schoolmistress for teaching poor children. The property was sold in 1805 and payment lapsed, but in 1826 the value of the remainder of the annuity amounted to £210, which subsequently became part of Beverley Consolidated Charities.

There was, however, a lapse in the payments, and on 17th June 1703 the Council decided 'Mr Nelthorpe of London to be approached with regard to £200 given by his grandfather's will, and threatened that if he does not pay it to the Corporation in a short time according to the will they will apply to the Archbishop of York and that he would be prosecuted upon the commission for the £200'. Obviously family loyalty to Beverley was becoming strained as on 15th May 1727 the Council recorded that 'the two Members of Parliament to be asked to apply to James Nelthorpe, Esq., about the £200 bequeathed to the Corporation for the poor by his late grandfather, James Nelthorpe, Esq., and to request the sum to be paid'.

To return to the home of the Lincolnshire branch of the family, Scawby Hall is Grade One listed and has been much altered on the east and south sides, from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. It contains several fine rooms, and one of the pleasures of visiting lies in its art collection which includes five paintings by George Stubbs, the celebrated eighteenth century artist. Indeed, Lady Elizabeth Nelthorpe 'discovered' Stubbs when she commissioned him to paint several members of the family. Counted among its treasures is a first edition of Stubbs' 'The Anatomy of a Horse', the illustrations based upon the flaying of a horse being carried out when Stubbs was resident at nearby Horkstow Hall. Other artists of note whose work is included in the collection are Sir Thomas Lawrence, FRA, and Joseph Wright of Derby. There is also an interesting library, many of the books being acquired when Sir Henry, the 5th baronet, married Joan Seaman in 1720. There is a record of the books being shipped by wherry from Norwich to Barton at a cost of 14 shillings.

The Hall is set in beautiful gardens with beds of variegated lavender scenting the path from the Hall to the nearby St Hybald's church. Some notable characters who owned it include Richard Nelthorpe, who was involved in a plot to assassinate King Charles II in 1685. Forty men were involved. Although Richard Nelthorpe claimed that the first he heard of it was 'at Beverley', when the plot failed he fled to Scarborough, took sail to Holland and then travelled to Switzerland. He later took part in the Monmouth Rebellion, but was captured and executed for his staunch Protestant views.

Other interesting characters in the family were Henry Nelthorpe (1820-60), noted for his wanderlust and military service; Robert Nassau Sutton-Nelthorpe; and 'one-arm Sutton' whose life defies description [Go on...! ed].

It is hoped that members of the Beverley & District Civic Society will join us in sharing a visit to this delightful property.

Berna Moody

Forthcoming Public Meetings & Events...

All meetings are held in St Mary's Parish Hall, North Bar Within, Beverley.

Tuesday 10th December 7.30 pm.

Ed Dennison

Archeological Services Ltd.

Recent Recording in the East Riding

Please join us for a festive drink and a mince pie after this meeting

Tuesday 14th January 7.30 pm.

Prof. John Wilton-Ely

A Yorkshire Partnership: William Kent and Lord Burlington

Tuesday 11th February 7.30 pm.

David Neave

Castle to cottage: House and Home in East Yorkshire 1100-1780

Tuesday 25th February 2.30 pm.

Dr. Peter Cuff

N.H.S. General Practice from the start

Tuesday 11th March 7.30 pm.

Pamela Hopkins

St. John of Beverley: his influence in Beverley and beyond

Tuesday 11th March 7.30 pm.

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St. John of Beverley: his influence in Beverley and beyond

Tuesday 8th April 7.30 pm.

Open Forum

Tuesday 29th April 2.30 pm.

Chris Blackburn

Mercy Ships

Tuesday 13th May 7.30 pm.

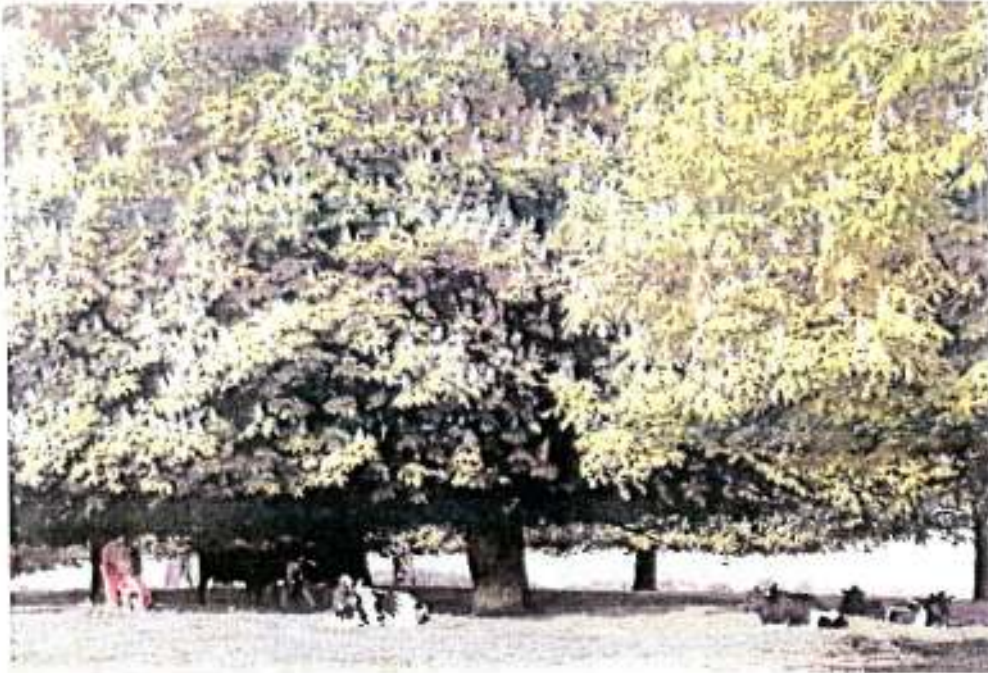
Mr. Kenneth Deacon

Airships over the Humber

Tuesday 24th June 2.30 pm.

Pat Deans

Beverley Minster



Beverley Pastures

The Civic Society book on Beverley Pastures has been reprinted. Reasonably priced (£5.99) it might make a good Christmas present for friends and relations who know Beverley, but who (unfortunately for them) live away.

It is available from Barbara English (Westwood Close, Beverley HU17 8EL, 01482-881333, benglish@newbegin.karoo.co.uk) or Tourist Information Office in Butcher Row.

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, no matter – all contributions and letters, no matter how brief, are welcome. **The deadline** for copy to be included in the Spring 2014 Newsletter is **Friday 28th February 2014.**

27% 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 able and willing to join the e-circulation list, please could you let me know via the above email address. Many thanks.

Wishing all readers
A Peaceful Christmas

&

A Happy New Year

