

Newsletter: August 2022

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Chairman's Remarks



One of the delights of living in Beverley is to witness traditions. On the 3rd of July the North Bar gates were shut by the Town Crier to safeguard the town, only to be opened to allow the Defence School of Transport to exercise the army's right to march through Beverley with bayonets fixed and bands playing. The Humberside Police band led the parade.



The Society's outing to Shibden Hall was a great success thanks to the hard work of Eva La Pensée, our public meetings organiser, in overcoming many last minute difficulties. The Hall with its courtyard Museum and lovely parkland, all managed by Calderdale Council, is a worthy destination at any time; even more so on a lovely sunny day.

Dick Lidwell



heritage open days



Your Help is Needed !!

Heritage Open Days run from Friday 9th September until Sunday 11th September with a few events outside these dates.

We would be delighted if our fellow members would act as stewards at some of the amazing properties open, such as the very rarely seen Norwood House or Mary Wollstonecraft's 2 Highgate. We open 11 to 4, and have 'shifts' of around 3 hours, morning or afternoon, welcoming visitors. Bring a friend too - it is a great way to learn more about the treasures of our town and meet people from all over the world.

Background information will be available for each location so the main task is chatting to visitors and making sure they feel welcome.

Details of the events can be found on the May edition of the Civic Society Newsletter.

If you are interested, please contact either:

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Planning Matters

Unfortunately the plans by Network Rail to demolish the wooden pedestrian canopy over the railway at Beverley Station, which had suffered from poor maintenance over many years, have been approved by ERYC's planning committee. The Society, and other national heritage bodies lobbied hard to have this distinctive and nationally unique structure preserved. We were disappointed that Historic England failed to support the objection. The canopy, cast iron bridge, signal box and station, all Grade 2 listed, together form a distinctive feature within the Conservation Area and the loss of the canopy will cause substantial harm to the town's heritage. The proposed new footway with its metal mesh balustrade will in no way compensate for this loss.



Members will have noted the amount of scaffolding arising in the town centre; an encouraging sign of refurbishment of roofs and facades. Although there are still some empty premises, and recent closures in the core of the town (including the distinctive White Rabbit chocolates and Sullivans fish and chips), some major sites are being re-occupied (the former Laura Ashley, Hotter and Dorothy Perkins shops).

The Society's Planning Group had its biannual 'teams' meeting with ERYC's Director of Planning, Stephen Hunt, and the Conservation Team led by Stephen Walker at the beginning of July. We learnt that contracts had been exchanged with EE so the new antenna on County Hall should be in place in the 'not too distant' future which should improve their longstanding poor network service. The results of the review of the Local Plan should be published on 6th September, to be followed by a period of six weeks consultation before final publication for adoption in January 2023. A review of Beverley's Conservation Areas will take place soon. The Society and other relevant bodies will be invited to assist in the survey with the objective of having the update completed by February 2023.

Lord Roberts Road site: A developer has been approved for building housing, but no details have yet come into the public domain. This is a large, highly important and sensitive site within the town centre.



The Society stressed that the site demands the highest standards of urban design, with ecologically sound housing, and including units suitable for the elderly and affordable homes. The development needs also to respect the archaeology, (it is believed that much of this area apart from the former care home buildings has never been developed), and the setting of the surrounding Listed Buildings namely the Minster, Highgate and the East Riding Theatre.

The Society has been informed of plans to install new signs at the entrances to Westwood following the removal of the previous illegal ones. The Executive has made further enquiries and some searching and constructive comments on the proposals, and awaits further information.

Finally, ERYC are proposing some improvement works to the Treasure House, Library and Champney Gardens. The planning group have been invited to a meeting to learn about and comment on these. A public exhibition on the plans will take place soon, date and time to be confirmed, but provisionally note Monday 22nd August.

Dick Lidwell

Memories of Minster Boys School (Part 2)

In 2009 I had the pleasure of going through the school log book for the years I was at the school and it made very interesting reading. During my visit to the Records Office I tried to find a punishment book but I realised one was probably not kept as it would have been filled very quickly from the outset.

The cane, or the 'cosh' as we called it, was liberally used in school and I expect we all deserved it when it came our way. But, for all that I do not remember any of the so called vindictiveness which the cane was supposed to bring out in one after receiving it. I do remember, however, getting back to one's desk after receiving three of the best, clutching at the iron supports of the same to try and cool my hands down. The same support sometimes caught your knee cap if you jumped out of your seat too quickly. That sort of pain stays in your memory for quite a long time.

At the very back of the school was an earthen playground which was dry and dusty in the summer and muddy in the winter. Over from there was an orchard which was, of course, very tempting for us, but woe betide you if you were caught. It was not uncommon in those days to receive a smack across the ear if you fell foul of the owner. It was no good crying to your teacher or your parents because you were as likely as not to receive another one.

Fights in the playground occurred almost daily and it was impossible not to get caught up in one at some time in your career as an academic. Some of us would stand on the boundaries around the central figures and from there would throw soils and sticks. It was not long before the fighting stopped and we were being pursued across the grounds by an angry mob. Even the caretaker was not immune from such fights. One got in a fight with one of the lads and I believe it ended in a draw. This was perhaps down to the youth of the pupil and the fact that the caretaker was getting on a bit by then.

There were teachers who just did not fit into the school and we baited them unmercifully. One of our tricks was to copy the comics we read and place buckets of sand or water on the door that was slightly open. When pushed all the way it would come crashing down. If a teacher was off for some reason it was the job of one teacher to look after two classes and as she or he went into the other class we would start shouting and banging our desk lids, making the most terrible din. Another, most memorable occasion was when one pupil was due for a good hiding. In the midst of his punishment he broke away and ran round the classroom on top of the desks until he reached the front of the classroom whereupon he clouted the blackboard with his fist, knocked it flying across the room and then ran out of the classroom onto the street. We thought it quite an afternoon's entertainment.

Once, Mr Grainger, the Headmaster caned the whole school because someone had been smoking in the toilets and would not own up. I remember we got to the back, hoping by the time he reached us he would be tired. His words when we got there were 'You think I'm tired, don't you?' We soon found out that he was not.

During the 1947 winter my brother and I had to walk a good mile through the snow which eventually became so bad that the Corporation had to send men out with pickaxes to smash it off the roads. This was loaded on to the horse and carts. The teachers invariably stood in front of the fires so that we could not see them. The classrooms had very high roofs so they were never at all warm but we sat there and got on with it. The milk was pulled over to the fire to melt the ice that

had formed on it and so you often got a bottle that was warm on one side and cold on the other. My dad was home from the army then and I used to wear his bush hat to school. He was in India during the war. I used to dive off walls into the snowdrifts with it on.

In the summer of 1949 I left Minster Boys, and on 12th September we were all escorted up to the new school at Longcroft. From there is another story.

Although the old school has now gone along with all the forgotten names which once lined the shelves in the school I shall never forget such a place, its influence on me and the friends I once knew there .

Edward Ball

St John's Ambulance, Beverley HQ.

The Society has been made aware that the St John's Ambulance building on the corner of Wilbert Lane and Morton Lane is to be auctioned on 1st September. The organisation is rationalising its estate and unfortunately the Beverley building is included in the sale.

This was originally a chapel built in 1888 for the Scotch Baptists when their chapel in Swaby's Yard (now the 'Collections' shop) was too small to accommodate the growing numbers of worshippers.

This is a fine building typical of the era, see below, and although not listed, should be preserved being part of Beverley's rich history of buildings of many faiths.



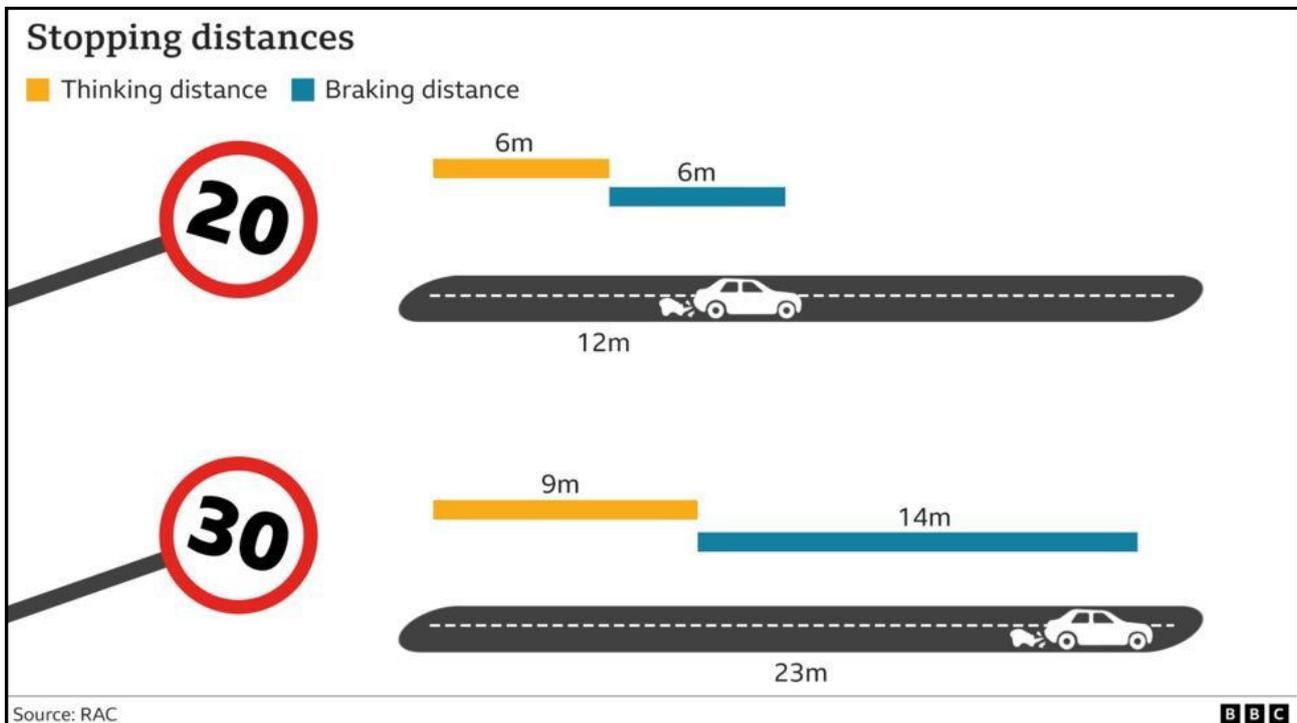
St. John's Ambulance, Wilbert Lane

If it's good enough for Wales, why not for Beverley?

On 12 July the Welsh Parliament passed a law to introduce 20mph speed limits in built-up areas from next year - a UK first. Ministers have said a 20mph speed limit will lower road collisions and noise and encourage people to walk or cycle. There are 20mph areas in Beverley but through roads such as Lairgate still have 30mph limits. The Society believes that a 20mph zone needs to be created across the town.

Many UK towns have 20mph limits on residential roads but Wales will become the first nation to impose it as the default on all restricted roads - with Scotland planning to follow in 2025.

The chances of someone surviving being hit by a car at 20mph rather than 30mph is seven times higher while stopping distances are almost halved from 23 metres at 30mph to 12m at 20mph. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) has encouraged the implementation of 20mph zones as a "considerably less expensive" way of reducing speed than introducing traffic calming measures and adding "it greatly improves the character of residential areas and quality of life for residents and pedestrians".



Our Parish and Town Councils, could all pass motions supporting 20mph limits which would demonstrate to ERYC the demand for 20mph is greater than just the town centre, making it both cheaper and easier to implement. Demonstrating widespread local community support is critical to implementing 20mph across a county. Authorities, such as Lancashire, Warrington and Sefton, have already agreed 20mph for every settlement, and satellite villages.

Benefits of 20mph speed limits

1. **Popular:** Government and other surveys consistently find 70% support for 20mph in residential streets which rises after the limits are introduced.
2. **Affordable and cost effective,** with multiple societal, environmental, economic, and climate benefits.

3. **Prioritise quality of life:** 20mph helps to create places where human activity, including walking, cycling and social interaction, takes precedence over traffic.
4. **Safer:** The UK's Department for Transport estimates that a 1mph speed reduction in built-up areas lowers casualties by 6%. 20mph schemes typically bring 20% fewer casualties.
5. **Better for the environment:** 20mph reduces CO2 emissions by 26% and NOx by 28% compared with 30mph and is 50% quieter.
6. **Little impact on journey times:** The 'stop-start' nature of traffic in built up areas is a much more significant factor. Roads can stay at 30mph where the needs of vulnerable road users are met. Bus journeys and timetables times are generally unaffected.
7. **Fewer signs needed:** 1 or 2 signs on entry and some repeaters to remind drivers; no need for physical calming. A big reduction in street clutter would be possible.
8. **Sustainable:** Ties in closely with other policies to address climate change and enables more people to walk and cycle, especially for short journeys.



Lamppost Repainting

Following the decision by Beverley Town Council to support the repainting of our historic lampposts, it's been great to see the speedy completion of the work.

Congratulations to all those involved in seeing this project come to fruition.



Reminder – Guildhall July Exhibition

The latest in the series of temporary exhibitions at the Beverley Guildhall opened on Friday 1st July. This exhibition, called 'Lost Streams, Pumps & Privies', expands on a talk Kloskk Tyrer gave on the subject to the Civic Society in December 2021.

'Lost Streams, Pumps & Privies' will be running at the Guildhall until 28th October on Wednesdays and Fridays 10am – 4pm. Admission, as always, is free.

New Members Welcome Event

On a sunny afternoon on Saturday 23rd July, the Executive held a garden party for the many members who had joined the Society since October 2019. Our thanks go to Chris Burrows (Secretary) and Sarah his wife for hosting in their lovely garden in North Bar Without.



Together almost 30 new members and the Executive enjoyed refreshments and chat, welcoming the opportunity to meet each other socially, to learn more about the activities of the Society, and sharing the privilege of living in lovely Beverley. Thanks also go to new member Ray Gallagher for his accordion playing.

Richard Lidwell

Beverley Town Trail Revisited

Written by Peter Lee and Peter Hick with help from well-known local Beverley historians Berna Moody and Pamela Hopkins, this book is a new look at the Town Trail which was inaugurated in 2010. The book consists of forty paintings of the Trail art installations - each paired with a poem by Peter Hick.

Copies are now available (price £10) at Murray Todds on North Bar Within, Beverley Building Society in Saturday Market, The Bread Shed on Ladygate, The Treasure House on Champney Road and at Beverley Bookshop on Butcher Row.

All profits go to the local medical charity 'Help for Health' which celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year.

