



Newsletter: February 2022

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Dick Lidwell

Chairman's Remarks



What a contrasting weather pattern we're having; bright sunny days enhanced by a glorious 'Wolf Moon', to be followed by many days of 'in your bones cold' low murk.



I started this note with a weather commentary as I wish to draw your attention to our 10th February talk by Mike Potter entitled: **'Flood Prevention on**



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the Cheap? Can Beavers and Nature Help?' We will all remember our devastating recent floods, and observe the dramatic changes in the weather worldwide brought about through global warming. This talk has an extra value dimension with Beavers having such a special place in Beverley's history, and with the 'Beavers Boosting Pickering's Slowing the



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Flow Scheme'. We look forward to seeing you at 7.30pm in St Mary's.

Dick Lidwell

Town Centre Traffic and Transport



There are many residential areas in Beverley where 20mph is the speed limit and the Society applauds such measures. However, roads through the town such as Lairgate and Hengate still have a higher speed limit of 30mph, even though they carry more pedestrian traffic than many residential streets. These 30mph streets are also connected to the several "stand alone" 20mph zones in the town centre, such as Well Lane, and Saturday Market. A total town centre zone would bring clarity to drivers, and would bring a reduction of intrusive signage in the Historic/Conservation areas of Beverley.



Recent work from Skyrad, an engineering consultancy, has used real life traffic movement scenarios to compare the difference in the amount of carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides (NOx) produced for speeds at 20mph vs. 30mph. This "real life" modelling takes account of the stop/start nature of urban traffic and shows significant and substantial reductions in emissions in the lower speed limit: CO₂ lower by 26% and NOx lower by 28%

This research shows that as well as being safer for pedestrians, such lower speeds will help reduce key climate change gases. Another very good reason to extend the 20mph zones in Beverley.

Mike Farrimond

Planning Matters

Your planning group had one of its constructive biannual meetings in January with ERYC's Head of Planning and Development and the Conservation Team. These meetings complement the ongoing representations made by the Society on planning applications and issues. Amongst the topics discussed were: progress on the review of the Local Plan (this will most likely be published for final public consultation in the autumn) and on the Park and Ride, which is progressing. Other items of possible interest included:

- An updating of Beverley's Conservation Areas is planned, as part of the Riding's review of all Conservation Areas, for later this year, and work will also be starting on drawing up an updated Shop Front Design Guide.
- The construction of the two filling stations by the Killingwoldgraves roundabout is going forward, and the one on the Killingwoldgraves Lane has now applied for a drive-in coffee shop; Ref: 22/00017/PLF.



- We raised the continuing issue of 'clutter' around the town centre e.g.; inappropriate illuminated signage, excessive intrusion on to pavements of 'A' boards and some tables, display of out-of-date public notices, and the continuing decay and eyesore of the former Thai restaurant outside the North Bar (see picture). Clearly the Society wishes town centre commerce to flourish but some controls are necessary, especially within our Conservation Areas, and for safety reasons. ERYC's Planning Enforcement section is busy taking action on many of these issues.

The Society would strongly encourage members to express their views on planning applications through using the ERYC's Public Access website via the link below:

<https://newplanningaccess.eastriding.gov.uk/newplanningaccess/>

Dick Lidwell

An Invitation to our members

The Society would welcome contributions from members on topics of interest for the Newsletter which other readers would enjoy.

We would ask that authors provide a contact address or e-mail and be aware that the Society reserves the right to edit all text submitted.

Any contributions would be greatly appreciated with a deadline of 24th of each month for possible future publication.

Please e-mail any contributions to lesleyblucke@gmail.com

Chariots of Fire

Roman mosaics are wonderful things: patterns and pictures (even captions sometimes) made with a mixture of black, white, red, grey and yellow stones or ceramics (called tesserae) about 1cm square, set in mortar. The mosaics were used to cover floors of the richest Romans' villas, and are tough enough to last for centuries. Many have been discovered in our region: mostly they are patterned, but the rarer finds, shine a spotlight into our Roman past.

The two mosaics shown here (the chariot race and the winning charioteer) are astonishing – and they are both in the Hull & East Riding Museum on the High Street, in a wonderful display on view, free, seven days a week.

The chariot race was found at Horkstow near South Ferriby, on the south bank of the Humber. Chariot racing, which took place in a stadium called a circus, was the great sport of the Romans, the Formula One of its day, with fiercely competing teams wearing different colours, and included dodgy driving, 'overpaid poster-boys' as star drivers, horrific crashes, and enormous bets on the results. It was also, strangely, the one 'cultural' activity that Roman men and women were allowed to watch together, so it was an excellent place to find a partner.

All chariot race tracks had a similar lay-out. The oval track within the circus was round a central wall (spina) that had at each end lap markers (metae): the race was seven laps, anti-clockwise. Each driver in his lightweight car had to manage two, four or even more horses. In our mosaic, (Fig.1) there are four racing chariots each with two horses (a biga). The man (top right) may be the starter who drops a cloth as a starting signal, or a steward using the cloth to warn the drivers that there has been an accident – the man (top left) who has lost a wheel and is falling. The dismounted rider (top centre) is going to his aid. The chariot (bottom left) has cleared the very tight corner successfully and is racing to the next, but in front of him is a stumbling horse. The charioteer (bottom right) is straining to slow his horses before the next corner.



Fig.1: The Roman chariot race mosaic from Horkstow.
Hull Museums

The charioteers have helmets, cross belts, some body protection and whips. The shell-like cars in which they stood were very light, made of wood and perhaps leather. The teams in the Roman world were red, white, blue and green.

The charioteer of the 'red team' found at Rudston near Bridlington (Fig.2) has won his race and carries a victory palm and wreath. He drives a four-horse rig (quadriga) and the difficult perspective of man, car and horses is very skilfully designed.

Mosaic floors were commissioned by the rich for their villas, men who may have made fortunes from growing and selling corn to feed the Roman army or the Roman navy at Brough; they may even have been shipping magnates commissioned to move men and merchandise from the Humber and the coast.

Look at these mosaics together, and imagine the shouts of the crowds, the dust, the crashing of the wheels, the yelling of the drivers: you could be back in AD 340. The Romans remained in the North of England from about AD 79 to 410, when the country was overrun by barbarian invaders. The great villas were abandoned; the falling debris and dust of centuries covered these pictures.

The only circus found so far in the UK is at Cirencester (the largest known public building in Roman Britain). The grandest of all circuses was the Circus Maximus in Rome, a race course used for a thousand years. It is still the largest stadium ever built, and could house a quarter of a million people: the new Wembley stadium houses only 90,000. We might find a circus in Yorkshire or Lincolnshire one day: there are over 30 known villa sites in East Yorkshire, and we will find more, and more mosaics. Some have had curious histories: one from Brantingham was stolen overnight in 1948 (where did it go?). One from Harpham was taken from the field to Hull City Hall, a rare mosaic of a maze: unfortunately wrongly assembled in concrete, the pieces are now in store in Hull Museums.

There is a long standing interest in chariots and horses in our part of Yorkshire. As we learned at last month's talk, 300 years before Christ was born, before the Romans came into the East Riding, men (and some women) were buried with their chariots and even their horses, in earth mounds (barrows) surrounded by square ditches.

Barbara English



Fig.2: The victorious charioteer from Rudston.
Hull Museums



Ben Hur (1959) chariot race. *Wikimedia commons*

Other Carved Panels on North Bar Without

The *Cricket on the Hearth* panel over the door of 45 North Bar Without, featured in the January newsletter. There are, however, other carved panels on North Bar Without. They are in the group of properties on the east side of North Bar Without (nos. 6-8) which James Elwell built between 1892 and 1893 for his workshop and house, together with a separate house at No. 4, having demolished earlier buildings. The panel above the door at No. 6 shows what, as first glance appears to be a market scene, with the title *The Political Cheap-Jack*. In fact it is a carving based on an 1847 *Punch* cartoon about Benjamin Disraeli's Buckinghamshire election campaign, which had been reissued in 1878 in a volume of Disraeli *Punch* cartoons. It shows Disraeli as a



huckster at a country fair. According to an account in the

Beverley Independent (1 April 1893), the houses visible in the background were said to be a representation of those demolished to make way for the new buildings. Above one of the shop windows in the carving, is the name W.J. Thorley Wood Carver (and according to the Historic England listing, the date 1892).



William James Thorley was born at Heslington, York in 1841, but by 1871 was in business on his own account in Hull as a woodcarver. He moved to Beverley c.1880 and was certainly working for Elwell by 1890. A newspaper clipping described him as *Elwell's head carver*, and his death notice in 1907 states that he worked for Elwell for 22 years. During that

time he also worked for the East Riding County Council as 'an instructor in woodcarving'. His name on the Cheap-Jack panel would indicate that he, rather than James Elwell, carved this panel.

That James Elwell would choose to have a carving poking fun at one of the great Conservative Prime Ministers, is perhaps not surprising. Elwell was a life long Liberal, and indeed in 1868 he had acted as the election agent for the writer Anthony Trollope's unsuccessful attempt to win the Beverley seat. Nevertheless to single out one political party for mockery in such a permanent way might have been unwise, and Elwell was an astute business man. The *Beverley Independent* article referred to above states that in the interests of balance, there was also a carving of an 1892 *Punch* cartoon about Gladstone's Irish Home Rule Bill. This survives and is over the angled doorway of no. 8. The cartoon on



which it is based was called *Will they work?*, and showed Gladstone with two of his

Cabinet, attempting to hold together four dogs representing the disparate factions which would need to be controlled if the Home Rule Bill was to succeed.



Although it is often said that 'the past is another country', it is interesting that, whatever one's political views, both the themes Elwell chose to have commemorated on his property, continue to have resonances today.

Jane Bowen

Another Chapter in Pocklington's History

In her superbly illustrated talk on 13 January 2022, Paula Ware, the Managing director of MAP Archaeological Practice provided a fascinating introduction to her company's recent excavations at three Iron Age sites at Pocklington. The results of the research will appear in a future edition of *Nature* once the DNA tests at Harvard have been completed and analysed.

Initially she discussed the site of a cemetery at Burnby Lane, Pocklington. The possibility of archaeological remains here had originally been raised by crop marks photographed in the 1970s. Interest began in 2014 and since then 172 burials have been investigated. Of these burials, three are Bronze Age burrows, 130 iron age and 40 Anglian (Anglo-Saxon). Twenty per cent of the burials contain grave goods – bones or artifacts. Finds include a variety of different shaped brooches, bracelets, swords, spearheads and shields. The most important barrow to be excavated (B85), was in fact the last, where a cart burial was found. This included the skeletons of two ponies, a part human skeleton, an iron tyre, and wheels and a cart pole identified only through the skilful excavating of soil stains. Carbon dating of the pony bones gave a date of c.250BC.

The second excavation took place at The Mile, Pocklington where the remains of five bodies were found in separate graves. Skeletons were well preserved and provided good information about their owners. For example no. 303, a male aged between 18-25, at 1.68m, was taller than the Iron Age average. Several injuries, including to his face, were suggestive to his being a warrior. A second warrior burial was found in an adjacent grave. This body had been placed on his shield, and was buried with several metal and bone spear-heads. The sword has been bent so that nobody could use it again. A third grave was that of a young woman, whose skeleton bore evidence of spina bifida. Some wire was found around the ribs, perhaps as a kind of corset?

The most interesting excavation however proved to be a chariot burial. The frame of the chariot was largely complete, still showing upright wheels attached to a 2 metre axle; its body, however, was only visible in the soil stains. The dead man had been laid on his shield, on top of the chariot, and to the front, two ponies had been buried in an upright position. Studies of the skeletal remains showed the man to have been 46 or older. Isotopic analysis of his bones also suggested that while he had been raised in the area, he had spent part of his adult life elsewhere before returning to Pocklington to die.

Paula then told us about a third chariot burial, this one excavated at Melton. Here the body appeared to have been laid on top of the chariot, and, in what seems to have been an East Yorkshire tradition, the man was buried with a pig skull. Some of the items recovered suggested a highly decorated chariot.

Another burial at Yapham Road, Pocklington contained the remains of a female with a foetus in the lower womb, which presumably indicates death in childbirth. Such female graves were common.

Paula saved the best until last. The Mile Shield is as good as any artefact ever discovered from this time in the UK.

During her talk the speaker listed the number of partners and



Iron Age Shield - courtesy Paula Ware

the attention from the Media, who participated in this enormous project. The TV programme 'Digging for Britain' took part in the excavations on two occasions. Specialists like Peter Halkon (University of Hull) and Malcolm Lille (University of Umeå, Sweden) were very much involved. The developers, Wilson Homes, funded the excavations.

The results will be published by Oxbow Press later this year.

Edited by Eva La Pensée

Tree Group News

This has been a GOOD month – we have spent every penny of our Community Tree Grant on three projects which are taking place this planting season. The free fruit trees have been distributed and will soon be blossoming in 30 Beverley gardens. ERYC Forestry are planting 69 trees around the town which we have financed, and the Pasture Masters are planting trees which we have helped to pay for in Newbegin Pits on the Westwood in February. The grant has been extremely effective and we obviously need to apply for more of these for next year!

Rosie Ryan



Two happy fruit tree customers

Newsletter Index

Firstly, many thanks to members who succeeded in finding copies of the missing 2006 and 2008 newsletters, which enables us to complete 2 more years of listings. We are still lacking copies of the newsletters for Spring/March; Summer/May, June; and Winter/December **2005**; also Numbers. 137 **2004**; 136 **2003**; and 131 **2002**. As indexing has progressed it has also become clear that the golden jubilee bumper edition which we have for Winter 2011 is missing **page 2**. If you can help with copies or photos of any of these please contact me at boward@hotmail.co.uk Currently newsletters from 2012 to the present are on the Society website, and the index will be added at a later date.

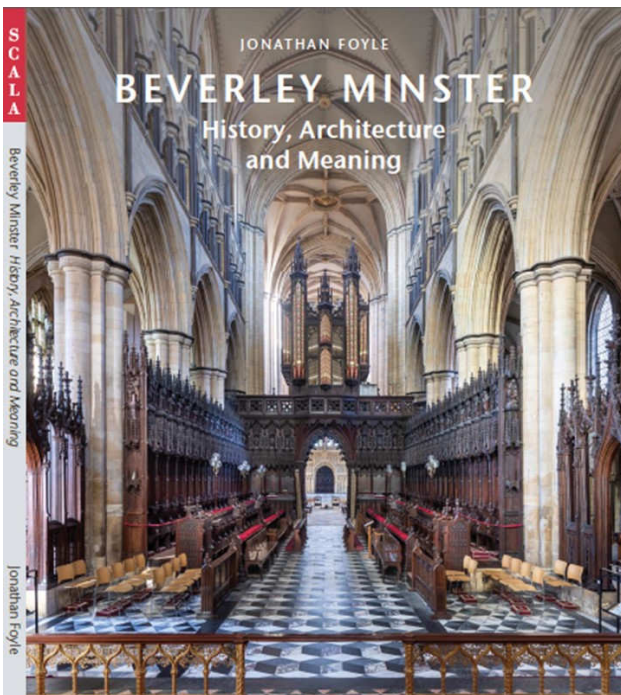
Jane Bowen

Book Signing event

On Wednesday 16th February, 7.00pm, Jonathan Foyle will be at the Minster, signing copies of his book, Beverley Minster, History, Architecture and Meaning.

For those interested tickets are available for £5.00 at the following link

<https://beverleyminster.org.uk/jonathan-foyle-book-signing/>



Hansa Event

11th February 2022

14.00-16.00

Newbald Village Hall

Two films are being shown, one highlighting the Hanseatic League, the other, in German with subtitles, a comedy, 'Tatort Reiniger'

Refreshments will be served

The two films and refreshments are free courtesy of Beverley/Lemgo Twinning Association

Peter Clarkson

We do not usually carry obituaries in the Newsletter, but we thought we should mention Peter as his family recently made a generous donation to the Society.

Peter William John Clarkson was born at The Ship Inn, Stoneferry, Hull, but moved to Beverley in 1962 when he purchased a new house in the growing development in Sigston Road. He remained living there until he sadly passed away in August aged 92. His daughter Katie has shared some of their memories of living in Beverley. Her father felt proud and privileged to live in Beverley, and loved to show his children Beverley's heritage, even on occasions buying them ice creams from Burgess's in North Bar Within.

We thank them for thinking of the Society and marking a life well lived.

Flood Prevention on the Cheap? Can Beavers and Nature Help?



An illustrated talk by Mike Potter

Thursday 10 February 2022

7.30 p.m.

St. Mary's Church, Beverley

Non-members welcome £5