

# Newsletter:

February 2023

<http://www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk/>



## Chairman's Remarks

### Spring Approaches!

Though technically it won't arrive until the Spring Equinox in late March, the days are already getting longer. Low temperatures and typical cold winds persist, but we have had many bright, clear sunny days too, which enhance our enjoyment of the wonderful Westwood and neighbouring countryside; also of our two magnificent churches with their cleaned and restored stone work.

The Society started the New Year's talks programme with an inspirational talk on the International Schools Award from the head of Molescroft School - a programme which encourages and informs our young people to learn about young people and the customs and culture of other countries, so becoming more Internationally aware global citizens; so important in our troubled current world. See the full report below. February's talk on the 'Hull Minster Revival Back to Life Project' should be equally stimulating with a more local heritage flavour. The Executive has been very encouraged to hear from three members interested in becoming more involved in the Society's works. Richard Fatkin has sat-in on our recent meetings and has agreed to be co-opted on to the Executive. Others will be observing our next two meetings. Our thanks go to them for stepping forward, and to you all for your support.



*Dick Lidwell*

## **Planning Matters**

Our Planning Group recently had its biannual meeting with Stephen Hunt, ERYC Director of Planning and Development Management. These meetings, where we discuss many planning topics and issues both local and national, are always useful. Feedback on some local topics are listed below. In addition members may be interested to know that Stephen Walker, the Senior Conservation Officer, has moved on to a new post in Hull City. The department is recruiting; the market is difficult but we hope that the section will be fully restored soon. The East Riding, and Beverley in particular, has many important listed buildings and Conservation Areas to protect.

### **England Springs Railway Crossing:**

As we reported in the last newsletter, Network Rail have temporarily closed this much used public bridleway crossing and the footpath to the south on safety grounds. Network Rail have an established policy and programme to maintain safety standards at all their crossings, but especially at open/uncontrolled crossings. The link below briefly explains their policy and safety evaluation of all crossings. Note stage 2 that outlines the consultation system with the relevant bodies, including user groups, when a crossing is in-line for permanent closure.

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/living-by-the-railway/level-crossing-closures/>

Since the adoption of the house building development plans to the south east and south west of the town, the Society has had many discussions with ERYC planning about these crossings, and the desirability of keeping them open to the public in some form, as they have been extensively used for many years. The completion of the house building programmes on both sides of the railway line will clearly increase the demand for safe crossing both for essential purposes, getting to schools, shopping, etc, and for recreational use. From our latest meeting with ERYC we understand that plans for a new bridge are advanced, with complex negotiations ongoing with the many developers, Historic England and Network Rail. The exact location has yet to be established but is likely to be situated somewhere between the two existing crossings. The bridge is to be designed for all users, including push and wheelchairs, and horses, which clearly is essential. As a consequence the design will be more complex (thankfully not similar to the sad bridge at Brough station!), and will also be more expensive. We look forward to hearing more in due course.

#### **Lord Roberts Road development site:**

The outcome of this application is still pending and discussions are taking place between the developer and ERYC in the light of the many strong objections made, including from the Society. We hope that a satisfactory well designed plan will evolve very soon to fully respect and enhance this important area in the centre of our town.

#### **EE Telecommunications mast:**

Members may have observed that a new mast and connecting equipment has, as planned, recently appeared on County Hall (look up opposite the Treasure House and library). This has yet to be connected to the network; we live in hope that it will be soon so we will get our much promised, but much delayed, improved service!

#### **Other Planning matters:**

Many members may be aware of section 106, Infrastructure funding agreements, made between developers and the council. We enquired as to where one can see details of these payments and where they are spent. Please see: [Monitoring reports \(eastriding.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/monitoring-reports) and scroll down to 'How are developer contributions monitored' and view the 'Infrastructure Funding Statement for 2021-2022. There's a lot of useful information.

4 North Bar Without (the former Thai restaurant). We are pleased to see the scaffolding go up at last to start the extensive works required to restore this fine listed building to its former glory. Our thanks go to the planning enforcement section of ERYC for ensuring these repairs be done.

Members may have noticed the welcome refurbishment, undertaken by ERYC, of the public seats from Wednesday Market to Saturday Market. It's good to see them restored and we understand that works are ongoing to improve the remaining seats.

*Dick Lidwell*

### **BBCrewind**

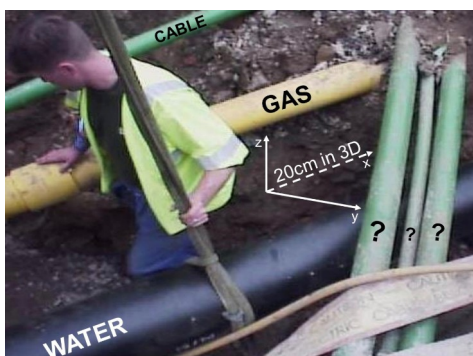
Members of the Society might be interested in accessing BBCrewind. If you put the local postcode, or indeed Beverley into the search engine you can access a variety of archive videos about Beverley and the surrounding area.

The link below brings up a fascinating film about Beverley in 1980. Hard to believe that's over 40 years ago!

<https://discover.bbcrewind.co.uk/asset/5ff87f4bee59ed0027560bff>

## Managing the Underworld or Orpheus visits Beverley

There are around 2.5 million street and road works carried out in England each year. These can cause significant disruption to people's journeys and create congestion which costs the economy around £4 billion. Street works are carried out by utility companies (e.g., water, drainage, gas, electricity and telecommunications) to install, repair or maintain the vital services on which we all rely. Road works are also carried out by the highway authority to maintain the roads or, for example, to install cycle lanes, bus lanes or traffic management systems such as traffic lights.



Photograph 1

There are around 4 million kilometres of buried pipes and cables beneath our streets (see photograph 1). Many water pipes and sewers were installed in the nineteenth century in the rush to improve public health. At present with government stimulus to expand high speed broadband services, there is an expansion of fibre optic cable networks. To maintain or replace these assets the more than 650, (yes, 650!) organisations owning them dig about 4 million holes in our streets every year.

The local highways authority (ERYC) is responsible for permitting these activities and monitoring the quality of reinstatement, which should match the surrounding surfaces. There



Photograph 2

has been a recent successful excavation in Wednesday Market (see Photograph 2) with neat replacement of pavers to match the surrounding surfaces, and the re paving of Wheatsheaf Lane is an example of good maintenance.



Photograph 3

Within the town, and in particular the Toll Gavel pedestrianised area, there are a number of examples where reinstatement has been completed using tarmac or concrete (see photographs 3 and 4), the original stone pavers having been removed during excavation. Although there are good examples of utility Streetworks and reinstatement, Wednesday Market being one example, the Society does not want to see a gradual deterioration of the street scene which would occur if reinstatement standards are not enforced. We call upon the council to remedy this recent fall in standards, so as maintain the attractiveness and integrity of our historic town.



Photograph 4





## Maintaining the Full International School Award at Molescroft Primary School

Our January talk was given by Michael Loncaster, the headteacher of Molescroft Primary School, supported by his colleague, Jonathon Williams. Its subject was Molescroft Primary School's involvement in the British Council's International School Award scheme, which is active in 16 countries, and rewards schools which have embedded international awareness, learning and understanding in the school and its curriculum.

Molescroft School began its involvement with the ISA in 2005. Assisted by our own Eva La Pensée, the first foreign links were made with a primary school in Beverley's twin town of Lemgo. This association continues up to the present time, with projects shared between the schools, and every three years exchange visits are made. One particularly effective means of promoting understanding came from an idea developed at the Lemgo school - 'My Life in a Box'. Each pupil in the relevant group creates a mini display within a box, similar in size to a cereal box, representing the important things in his or her life. The examples we were shown included family photos, miniature models showing hobbies, pets and/or sports. These boxes are then shared and exchanged with pupils in the partner school, either directly, if an actual visit is taking place, or on line, promoting discussion of what has been shown and why, and leading to greater understanding of how much all the children have in common.



Children from Molescroft Primary School present their 'Life in a Box' to students from Humboldtschule in Bremerhaven, Germany.

Molescroft has also developed strong links with the Secondary School in Bremerhaven, some of whose pupils do work experience in the school, and is involved in joint work with schools in Poland, Switzerland and Denmark.

The embedding of foreign language learning within the curriculum is another important aspect of the school's work. All pupils from Key Stage 1 are introduced to a foreign language, either French or Spanish. Following growing links with Swiss schools, the use of the foreign language as a teaching medium in some subjects such as P.E. is now being developed.

A key feature of the school's commitment is its carefully planned annual three - week International Festival, during which time all areas of the curriculum feature aspects of life and work in a particular country. The school itself is decorated to promote a sense of the country being studied. With the cooperation of the school cook, children learn about and experience food from that country. Arrangements are made for nationals from the country to visit the school and share with the children particular aspects of their culture such as dance, music, food and art. Craft projects enhance the experience - for example animal masks for a safari were created when South Africa was the featured country. The festival ends with an afternoon/evening event for pupils and parents, showcasing pupil performances and supported by a 'Passport' document containing information on the programme of activities, quizzes, and recipes.

Mr. Loncaster stressed that all this work was embedded within the curriculum, not a 'bolt on'. There was a need for the young people to understand the past and its implications for the present and future - 'If we fail to learn from history we do so at our peril'. Consequently his aims for Molescroft as an International School are:

**We believe our pupils, staff and parents need to understand the world in which we live: the values and culture of different societies; the ways in which we are increasingly dependent upon one another; and the ways in which we all, as global citizens, can influence and shape the changes in the global economy, environment and society of which we are part.**

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## A brief glimpse into the past

New works on old buildings often reveal past glories. Members may be aware that Oliver Bonas are to move into the former Hotter shoe shop on Toll Gavel; scheduled to open on 16<sup>th</sup> February. The fascia sign needed to be updated, and some of these beautiful tiles of the former Hull Cooperative Society shop were briefly revealed.



Photos courtesy of Neil Harris



For a brief but interesting insight into the foundation and growth of the Co-operative movement nationally, and in Hull and the East Riding, visit the Hull History Centre's website shown below. This includes reference to the Beverley and District Society being merged with Hull's in 1929. The website's small collection of black and white photographs predominately features the Co-operative store and its staff on Jameson Street, Hull as well as a few of staff events and visits by celebrities, including George Formby.



Photograph of a 1930s postcard of Toll Gavel showing the Hull Co-operative shop.  
(With thanks to ERYC museums service)

<https://catalogue.hullhistorycentre.org.uk/catalogue/U-DX293?tab=description>

Dick Lidwell



*For your Diary*



## Hull Minster Revival: Back to Life Project



**An illustrated talk (with exhibits) by Jane Owen**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – 7.30pm  
at St Mary's Church, Beverley**

### **Disclaimer**

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