

Newsletter:

July 2022

www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk

**BEVERLEY
CIVIC
SOCIETY**

Founded 1961

Chairman's Remarks



Our activities continue apace; reports follow of our successful Study Day and the unveiling of the head sculpture in the sensory garden. Our outing to Shibden Hall approaches, and see news of a forthcoming event for our new members in July. (see page 11)

What a great season it has been for nature and our gardens; the mix of early rains and warm spells have produced amazing growth, and spectacular flowering. The recent NGS Walled Townhouse Gardens in North Bar Within attracted many visitors to see beautiful hidden spaces. Witness also this amazing flowering weigelia.

As the summer solstice and mid-summer's day passes, and with school holidays about to commence, I wish you all a relaxing healthy summer and thank you for all your support.

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:

sandrabwilliams@btinternet.com

elapensee@gmx.com

Planning Matters

This month has seen applications for new service outlets in the town centre, but there have also been closures. Whilst it is encouraging that new businesses (some nationals) are opening, for the town centre to flourish long term, we must aim to keep a good mix of businesses encouraging retail as a core in addition to independents providing food and other services.

Another aspect has been a number of applications for new fascia. When these are fronting listed buildings and within the conservation area it is important to review these to prevent adverse effects. National chains present additional difficulties but some modifications can sometimes be negotiated. The proliferation of illuminated signs within shop windows and fronts can also adversely affect the environment, especially when brightly lit and rotating. Some low level lighting may enhance a building too, eg Pizza Express, and assist with street security but that element should be dealt with by suitable public street lighting. Many years ago the former Borough Council had a shop front guide (as do many authorities). The Society would like to see a revival of this guidance together with a strategy for signage.

In the last newsletter we made mention of a meeting with ERYC concerning signage around the town. This took place and to start we have concentrated on evaluating the many Finger Posts, and we are making some recommendations. Overall we have encouraged the use of these, and like their style, as being appropriate for historic towns. You may have noticed that commendably, ERYC have been repainting some. We felt some signs needed updating, rationalising, more consistency in the use of wording, distances and symbols, and some needed to be repositioned to be more effective. We also discussed the units dispensing town maps. These are often unreliable in producing maps for the £1 charge, with some out of date information still on the maps. To alleviate this problem maybe there should be a few publicly displayed maps within the town centre; carefully positioned and not contributing to 'clutter'. We shall be having further discussions with ERYC and are interested in hearing members views on this topic.



Smart finger post by the Registry office

Nationally the Government continues to make frequent announcements regarding planning and housing policy. We are awaiting the latest one on 'National Planning Policy' which may have implications for Local Authority versus Central Government powers and is to be published in July. Watch this space!

Dick Lidwell

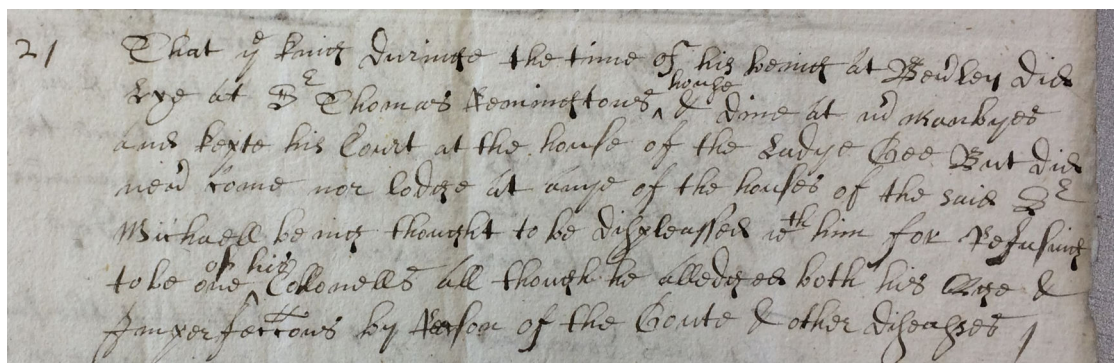
Where did Charles I stay in 1642?

Following on from Susan Neave's interesting piece about the Tower House in last month's newsletter, together we decided to record what we know about the king's stay in Beverley in April 1642. It is often said that King Charles and his sons Charles and James, both future kings, lodged at Lady Gee's house, and also that Lady Gee's house was on the site of the present Bar House. Neither statement is correct.



At the king's trial in 1649 leading to his execution, the first witness, William Cuthbert of Hull Bridge, said 'he did see the king come to Beverley, to the Lady Gee's house there, where he, this deponent [witness] did often see the king, with Prince Charles and the duke of York.'

Other and earlier witnesses were more precise. In 1645 a Parliamentary Inquiry was held at Hull into civil war damage to Sir Michael Warton's Beverley properties, and questions to the witnesses included 'where did the king stay?'. The clerk recorded the evidence of 16 men. Edward Sparling of Beverley testified that the king had slept at Sir Thomas Remington's house, and dined with Mr Manby, but the Court was at Lady Gee's house. This evidence was confirmed by three other witnesses to the inquiry, and we believe it is correct. Sparling's response to article 21 is below (from *Hull History Centre, BRS/7/105-116*):



[Transcript of the first three lines]

21 That the king during the time of his being at Beverley did
Lye at S^r Thomas Remingtons house & dine at Mr Manbyes
and kepte his Court at the house of the Ladye Gee....

As he did when visiting York, King Charles I preferred to stay in a different place from the Court, where government business was done. While he visited Lady Gee's house as Cuthbert remembered, it was his workplace and he did not live there. No witness described the location of these houses. House history research by Susan Neave, however, proves that Lady Gee never owned nor occupied the Bar House. Unfortunately we have not yet found where Remington or Lady Gee lived within Beverley. Robert Manby, a woollen draper, Beverley mayor and an ardent Royalist, may have lived in Mercers' Row, Saturday Market. As a man dealing in woollen cloth, Manby would be rich: an earlier draper, William Leryffax, in 1531 paid for a very large and elaborate font for St Mary's church.

While our search continues, and new documents turn up regularly, we are confident that the earlier Bar House contained neither kings nor Court.

Barbara English

Memories of Minster Boys School (Part 1)

During July 1943 I left the protective custody of the Misses' Sugden at St Nicholas Infants for the rough and tumble of Minster Boys School on Lurk Lane, Beverley. The school, which was built in 1870, was one of many put up all around the country following the Education Act 1870 which decreed that all children over the age of 5 should have a full-time education.

Miss W was my first teacher and it was from her that I developed the quick reflexes needed to snatch one's hand away from an often quicker descending ruler. What for, I'm not sure though I often think she had a dislike of small boys which is quite natural. Look at 'Just William'.

There were many children during the war who were extremely poor, some of them with holes right through their shoes, threadbare and patched trousers and jackets with sleeves just hanging on. I remember some of them so tired and obviously short of a breakfast, falling fast asleep at their desks as soon as they had consumed the morning's milk ration.

The Headmaster when I first went to the school, was 'Dawdy' Whitehead who had commenced his duties at the school in 1899 and retired after 51 years teaching. I can still see him now, slightly inclined to one side, as he doffed his hat to any ladies he may have known in the street. He was succeeded by Mr Grainger.

I had the pleasure in 2009 of going through the school log book for the years that I was at the school and it made me realise what a different era we boys lived in. An important lesson taken during the war years was gardening. A large garden stretched from the school to the road in front of the Minster. It was always full of produce and young boys battling away to keep the weeds down.

On September 9th 1943 we all went to the Market Place to hear General Eisenhower announce the capitulation of Italy and then on February 8th 1944 there was a visit from General Montgomery. I cannot remember either incident but I'll bet it seemed important at the time.

Throughout the log there are entries announcing the visit of the school dentist, Mr Beddoes who had his surgery at the corner of Lord Robert's Road. Mr Beddoes was not so much disliked as feared. I remember the walls of his surgery covered with prints by the 18th century caricaturist, Gilvray. They showed dentists in all sorts of contortions trying to pull teeth. The one that stands out in my memory is the dentist standing in the patient's lap with a large pair of pliers. No wonder we feared him.

The war was in full spate at that time and we spent many hours concocting exploding pictures which consisted of German ships or planes drawn across a folded piece of paper. When the paper was pulled out at both ends it revealed the enemy war machine exploding after being hit by a British plane or battle ship.

At the very end of every October and the beginning of November for two weeks we went potato picking. This meant we were off school for this time. It was not a picnic however but was damned hard work, though we were paid which was nice. It was all for the war effort. I went to a farm on one occasion at Weel. Weel was, in those days, on another planet. The lady of the farm brought out white enamel buckets of tea and apple pie during our break and delicious they were too. The buckets we carried the potatoes in were galvanised and were very heavy. So by the time they

were full of potatoes there was quite a weight for us to carry.

At the end of the playground was the canteen and except for 'greens' and turnips which I hated and still do, I found most of the meals quite nice. I was always up for seconds when it was jam roly poly, still a favourite when done properly.

Outside the playground were wooden toilets which we used to sit on side by side and across the ground was a wash house where cold water was available for washing one's hands. The place was sometimes running with water from our attempts to soak each other with the taps. It was a common occurrence for boys to ask during lesson time if they 'could go round the yard'. Sometimes it worked, most often it did not. Anything for a bit of freedom from classes.



Conington gang taken about 1949. Their names are as follows: Standing, Michael Clark, Peter Smith, Dennis Ball (my brother). Monty Mulford, Colin Dove, Paul Speak. Noel Wilson.

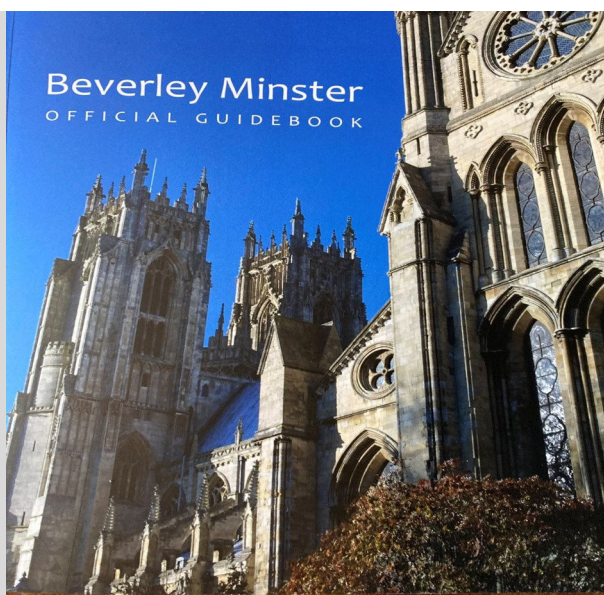
In the late 1940s we were given a lecture by the police warning us not to go into Barmston Drain anymore due to the polio epidemic which was raging across Britain. This effectively put an end to our days with our school pals swimming in Bricky. I never saw anyone swimming in there again and it had been such a popular place to picnic in the summer months.

Edward Ball

Next month read about bad behaviour and its consequences and snowy weather

An up-dated guide to Beverley Minster

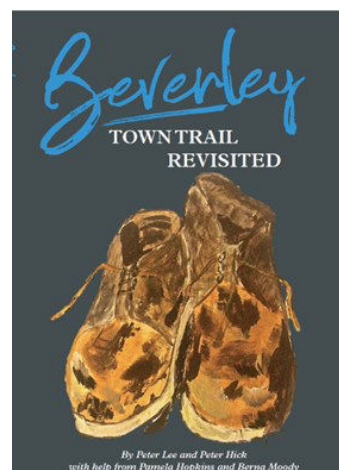
This is the front cover of the NEW and beautifully produced Beverley Minster Official Guide Book, which has just been published and now available for £6 at the Minster shop and online. The text is by Barbara English and is accompanied by stunning photos. This fascinating book refreshes our knowledge of this amazing structure that we can take for granted when living within its shadow. Great reading for both visitors and Beverlonians.



Beverley Town Trail Revisited

by Peter Lee and Peter Hick with help from Pamela Hopkins
and Berna Moody

A new book will be launched on July 21st. Written by Peter Lee and Peter Hick with help from well-known local Beverley historians Berna Moody and Pamela Hopkins, the 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 and a little added writing to promote interest and knowledge. All profits from the book will go to the local medical charity Help for Health which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.



It is hoped that the book will promote a new interest in the Town Trail and that local townsfolk and visitors alike, will use the book and the enclosed maps to follow one or all of the four town trail walks – seeking out the art forms as they go, having a bit of fun and acquiring knowledge of our historic town which was so thriving and important in Medieval times.

After the launch, copies will be 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 where a book signing will be held on a date to be arranged.

Beverley's Timber-Framed Buildings

by David Cook

The YVBSG is delighted to announce the publication of *Beverley's Timber-Framed Buildings* by David Cook. In 2014 the Group started a project, partly funded by Historic England, to identify, survey and interpret early building fabric in Beverley. With input from Dr Susan Neave and other YVBSG members, David (the project leader and YVBSG Archivist) draws on the findings of the project to reveal newly-discovered details about Beverley's buildings and to set them into the historical and landscape context of the town.

The book focuses on timber-framed buildings, looking at how they evolved, and starts with a thematic approach including archaeology, plan forms, carpentry and structure. This is followed by a detailed appraisal of each building, starting with the oldest. Finally, the story told by analysis of Beverley probate inventories and wills of the late 17th and early 18th century gives an impression of these buildings and how they were used at the end of the timber-framing tradition in the town.

The book is published by Blackthorn Press (May 2022) and is available from Amazon at £19.95 by following this link:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B09ZCQB4J8/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_NM175ZCB3Y68KXDYWVB3.

We congratulate David on this admirable achievement which is a fitting cause for celebration in the Group's 50th year.

Sensory Garden Head Sculpture



On the Jubilee weekend we unveiled a wonderful head sculpture in the Sensory Garden section of Coronation gardens.

The sculpture was created for Sight Support (formerly HERIB) by the local sculptor Peter Brown, and previously was situated at Burton Agnes. Eric Harrod, a trustee of the charity, approached the Civic Society to help find a new home for the sculpture. We were delighted to help, and the sculpture makes a great additional contribution to the sensory garden which the Society created

in 2005. Peter Brown conducted the unveiling and spoke about the inspiration behind the design. Its unusual design with missing features is designed to encourage everyone, but particularly blind and partially sighted people, to run their hands over the head to experience internal feelings.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Civic Society, the CEO, Sandra Ackroyd, trustees, members and users of Sight Support, and the Deputy Lieutenant for East Riding, Mrs Julie Good.

The weather was kind to us and the sculpture is now being greatly appreciated by visitors to the gardens.

Dick Lidwell



The photograph shows the first users exploring and confirming the enriching experience

Study Day Summary - A very personal view

The Stained Glass of Beverley Minster: Conservation and Protection, an illustrated talk by Professor Sarah Brown FSA, York Glazier Trust

It took some time before the Society could arrange the right time and place for this comprehensive presentation, with a particular focus on the beautiful West Window. Professor Brown began by showcasing some of the oldest stained glass within the Minster dating between the 13th and 15th centuries and how similarities with glass in places such as York Minster, particularly in terms of design and subject matter helped to date its time of manufacture. The importance of preventing further damage to the colouring of the window, as well as designing the right protection from outside influences, was brought home with a detailed history of the Gothic revival. Hardman & Co of Birmingham, one of the world's leading manufacturers of stained glass, in collaboration with the architect Pugin, created the Minster's large West Window. This depicts the early history of Christianity in Northumberland.

Being so close to the object of the talk was a privilege. Several times the sun shone just at the right angle and lit up the whole masterpiece for us to see in all its beauty.

There was detailed explanation of how the newest research could allow preservation of the original colouring of the stained glass, and protection from condensation and the extreme changes of temperature within the church. Numerous questions regarding both this history and installation of the West Window, as well as the challenge to preserve and protect, were comprehensively answered. Beverley can be rightly proud of its heritage of Gothic Revival.

The Minster Sanctuary Project: A Practical Workshop Anna Knowles and Cathy Thornton, Community Learning Officers

Surely, I was not the only person on the day who wondered how five year old children learn about sanctuary? Anna and Cathy have published learning packages for teachers, which are available on the Minster's website.

There was real surprise about the extent of hardly visible graffiti that had been scratched over centuries into the stone of the columns all along the nave, much left by pilgrims or those seeking sanctuary. We were given scratch cards to make our own graffiti. What type of message would you leave behind?

The next challenge was to choose as a group, eight objects from a collection of items to take with you if you had to suddenly flee your home. These activities created a lively debate. Anna and Cathy spoke of the perception displayed by the children undertaking the workshops on school visits. Current events and some memories from more senior members added poignancy to the conversation.

St Mary's Church Restoration: Meet the Masons and Designers Matthias Garn, Master Mason & Partner

Unfortunately, the speaker had to self-isolate; we are grateful that he delivered his presentation from his sickbed. Thanks to the expertise by the 'technical team' it all worked really well via Zoom.

Matthias is from Dresden, Germany and completed his apprenticeship there. Growing up in a family of masons, he witnessed the enormous reconstruction programme of many

splendid buildings in the city centre, that had been completely destroyed during the war.

For many years based in York, Matthias' workshop maintains a strong link with the German apprenticeship system whereby travel is considered an integral part of learning a craft.

We were shown the collection of tools a stone mason uses. They have remained unchanged over centuries. The working of the stone surface creates a pattern, which is individual to each mason. Matthias spoke then in more detail about the sculptures created for St. Mary's, and emphasised how much he appreciated the keen interest and engagement of the Beverley community. The audience learnt something of the way the new sculptures of Narnia and Extraordinary Women were designed and created. Later there was an opportunity to speak to two of the masons about the installation of the sculptures, and the particular challenges the project had posed for the team.



For me personally, it was especially interesting to hear also about his involvement in rebuilding the iconic 'Frauenkirche' (St. Mary's) in Dresden. Without its grand dome the famous silhouette seen from the river Elbe would not be complete. Just like the church in Beverley, it was built by the citizens. As a Lutheran church it placed the altar in the centre of a circular nave. This image is from a picture, which has been in our family as long as I can remember. It was taken as a keepsake when my parents left the city of my birth for good.

Morning coffee and afternoon tea served with tasty cakes by Millie Fatkin and her friend, provided a welcome opportunity for relaxation and lively conversation.

Eva La Pensée

EYRC- Congratulations and a Complaint

Its good to see the removal of the chewing gum recently from the streets of Saturday Market. A dull and expensive job by all accounts but a real improvement to our town's environment.

Unfortunately, the continued use of weed killer on many of our grass areas which support a vertical structure. It is ungreen, unattractive and expensive. Perhaps the EYRC could look to plant wild flowers in these areas, something suggested by Beverley's mayor.



Shibden Hall 13th July 2022

For 500 years from 1420 to 1926, Shibden Hall near Halifax has been a family estate, providing a home and income to those who lived there. It is now owned by Calderdale Council. One of its owners, Anne Lister (1791-1840), has recently received a lot of attention in the media after 26 volumes of her diaries had been discovered during repair work. A sixth of these texts were written in code. They make up only a part of the unique archival records dating from around 1400, now stored in Central Library, Halifax.

Places are limited, please book as soon as possible, if you wish join us. The Shibden Hall/Museum is alive with furnishings and objects owned by a remarkable and complex individual.

On the day a map of the site will be available. The afternoon provides plenty of opportunity for individual choice. The time allocated to see the house is not limited.

Eva La Pensée

A Day in Shibden Hall and Park, near Halifax Home of Anne Lister called 'Gentleman Jack'. Wednesday, 13th July 2022



Leave Beverley, Norwood 9.00 a.m. to return at 6.00 p.m.

£ 33.00 (includes bus, entry and lunch)

For booking form

email: elapensee@gmx.com

Non-members welcome

www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk

New Members Event

WELCOME TO THE SOCIETY



The Chairman and Executive Committee would like to extend an invitation to the many new members who have joined since October 2019 to this social event.

We appreciate that during Covid times it has not always been possible to have the social interaction that we would have wished for. Now that we are hosting our meetings and events in person rather than via Zoom we thought it might be nice to invite all our new members to an informal gathering. This will give us all a chance for a chat in pleasant surroundings, to meet fellow members, and to answer any questions or queries you may have.

The event is entirely free and you are welcome to come along **between 2pm and 4pm on SATURDAY 23rd July 2022** and enjoy some light refreshments. The location is the rear garden of Beverley House in North Bar Without and is accessed via Harper's Court (go through the archway between No 24 and Grace Eva's cake shop on North Bar Without, and turn left at the far end). We should be delighted to see you there; to help with our planning please contact our Honorary Secretary: Chris Burrows goodtymeshull@hotmail.com Telephone 01482 866252/079221 48662. We look forward to welcoming you.

Richard Lidwell
Chairman



Breaking News....

Beverley Town Council has agreed to fund painting of the town's 39 historic lampposts; painting will begin on Monday 27th June and take a couple of weeks. The Society, which is providing the specialist red and gold paint, thanks East Riding of Yorkshire Council for supplying the green paint and the Town Council for funding the project.

