

Newsletter:

June 2022

www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk



Chairman's Remarks



Summer is approaching, and we look forward to our study day on Saturday 18th June at the Minster and St Mary's, and the annual outing to Shibden Hall on Wednesday 13th July. Booking forms are available from Eva la Pensée at elapensee@gmx.com



Continuing my earlier theme on the wonders of nature, I wonder how many members observe that buttercups on Westwood and The Hurn appear to follow a biennial flowering cycle with this year's display being as wonderful as ever? I read that 'Meadow buttercup is avoided by grazing animals due to the acrid tasting sap'; how do our lovely cattle cope?

Those are nature's colours, but our farmers contribute too. Rapeseed seems to have been particularly prolific and vibrant this year, as has flax.

Dick Lidwell

Planning Matters

A few updates on planning applications:

The application by 'webuyanycar.com' for sales on the Beverley Cricket ground off Norwood has been approved despite many objections. Members will have observed the road and ground works proceeding at a pace for the new BP and M&S food outlet north east of the Killingwoldgraves roundabout. The application by Network Rail to remove the listed wooden canopy on the pedestrian bridge at the station still stands despite many objections, including by the Society and the Historic Buildings and Places Society (ie; The Ancient Monuments Society), being lodged.

Other applications continue to be submitted, including, as reported last month for conversion of office buildings to residential use; the latest being a most welcome one for the former Grant's Bistro building on the corner of Hengate and North Bar Within; a mixed application retaining office premises on ground floor but residential above.

Our application to move the Crosskill plaque from the Registry Office to the Grosvenor Club has been approved. William Crosskill's great works will be celebrated in our Heritage Open Days in September.

We have often commented on signage clutter within the Beverley town centre, so are pleased to have been invited to an informal meeting with officers from ERYC to discuss improvements to Beverley town centre signage including finger posts, map dispensers, and other directional signs. The next edition of the newsletter will include feedback from this meeting.

Dick Lidwell

Beacons for a Queen



On Thursday 2 June 2022 beacons will be lit across the land to celebrate 70 years of the remarkable reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Beverley's particular beacon is at High Hunsley: to see this being fired (9.45 pm), with many other beacons across the Riding also blazing, is an amazing experience with a long, long history.



Signalling in Yorkshire by beacon is at least as old as the Romans, and the remains of late 4th-century signal towers exist at Filey, Scarborough, Ravenscar, Goldsborough and Huntcliff. Medieval beacons were more like bonfires, but King Edward III is said to have ordered 'pitch boxes' on stands which became the norm. Tudor administrators underlined the significance of the beacons by creating four new land divisions in the East Riding: Hunsley Beacon, Holme Beacon, Bainton Beacon and Wilton Beacon. Beacons were not just on hill tops, but before the sea took swallows the sites, were placed all down the Holderness coast, as shown on an Elizabethan map known as Lord Burleigh's chart.



Detail from Holderness c.1560 © British Library MS Royal D.III,f.63 showing the coastal beacons near Mappleton indicated by the 3 triple flares

Hunsley Beacon was a significant part of the most serious Tudor rebellion, the Pilgrimage of Grace, that began in Beverley in 1536. The rebels met on Westwood Green (probably the Archery Field) beside the Franciscan Friary, and ordered the beacon at High Hunsley to be lit to rouse the Riding: they found the beacon lying on the ground, so they lit the hedges and haystacks instead. Men answered the signal and came to Hunsley, from where they set out and captured both Hull and York.

The coastal Holderness and Humber beacons were a significant part of Elizabethan defences against the Spanish Armada, and we can still read the detailed 1588 instructions for watching and firing these beacons, organised by the Lord Lieutenant and the JPs. The beacons (tar barrels on poles) were clustered in threes, so that the watchmen lit one for a ship behaving suspiciously, two for many hostile ships, and three for an actual invasion. These beacons were readied against Napoleon, and similar signal stations were used in both World Wars. Now Hunsley provides a radio transmitter mast for our area, continuing a centuries-old tradition of signals.

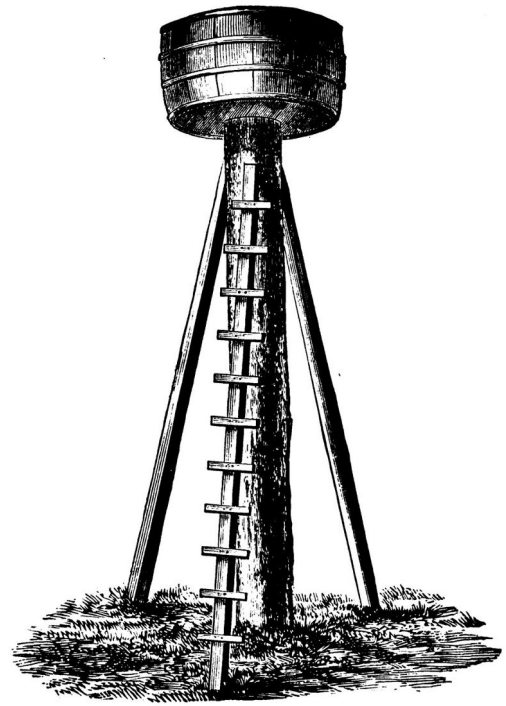


High Hunsley Beacon 2015 *Creative Commons*

In 1588 two beacons at Hunsley 'took light from' Bainton and 'gave light to' Holme. Bainton's two beacons, and Willton and Holme single beacons, also both sent and received the light signals, so that vast areas could be alerted to dangers from any direction. Beacons covered the whole country 'the red glare on Skiddaw roused the burghers of Carlisle.' For those interested in the details of these Armada defences (there were 62 East Riding beacons) see *Beacons of East Yorkshire* by John Nicholson Brown (Hull 1887), on line through the HathiTrust.

The actual sites of beacons, as at Hunsley, seem to have varied over the centuries, but always close to the highest ground. When danger threatened, men had to keep watch day and night, living on the site, maintaining and fuelling their beacons. High Hunsley is a now deserted village, with earthworks in the field east of Hunsley House.

Beacons were not all designed for war. Under the Tudors, Hull's Trinity House became responsible for some beacons used as sea marks: and the Brethren also managed pilotage on the Humber from 1514 until today, a link to our Beverley MasterChef, Humber Pilot Eddie Scott.



HUNSLEY BEACON.
(ABOUT 1830).

From a description by Mr. J. Boodie, Hull.

From *Beacons of East Yorkshire* by John Nicholson Brown (Hull 1887)

Barbara English


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Town Centre Traffic and Transport
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Traffic Noise – A move forward?

What does 74 decibels mean to you?

Well, apparently that is the sound of a flushing toilet. But it's also the legal limit for sound from a vehicle, and application of this limit by the Kensington & Chelsea Council has resulted in 10,000 noisy vehicles being identified during a nine-month trial. The Department of Transport has developed the new technology, the noise equivalent of the speed camera, which identifies vehicles emitting noise greater than 74 decibels which can then be fined £100 for each offence.

In a poll in The Times, 89% of respondents thought that councils should do more to clamp down on noisy cars and motorbikes. The technology combines speed and noise detection with automatic number plate recognition and potentially could result in the automatic issue of the fixed penalty fine of £100, which some want to see increased to £400. Alternatively, a doubling of the fine for repeated offences may be more of a deterrent.

As this technology starts to be rolled out across the country, we hope that our council, East Riding of Yorkshire, acquires the system and applies it to the benefit of residents.

Mike Farrimond

Bar House, Beverley and the mysterious Thomas Gee

The large house adjoining the west side of North Bar in Beverley was built by the Warton family in the 17th century, but much of the present structure appears to date from the 1860s. Still in single ownership when it was the 20th century home of artists Fred and Mary Elwell, the house is now subdivided. The southern part, Tower House, has been occupied by a firm of solicitors for many years, and is now for sale.



In 1866 Bar House was purchased by Thomas Gee of Hyde Park Gardens, a fashionable London address. Local architect William Hawe was employed to make extensive alterations, including the addition of the distinctive tower with belvedere. At the same time the pedestrian way between North Bar and the house was created. Who was Thomas Gee? His name does not occur in local records, and when the census was taken in 1871, Bar House was occupied by George Holmes, a veterinary surgeon and horse dealer.

As a result of an extensive online newspaper search, I came across an article in *The Sportsman*, 12 January 1869, which referred to Mr Thomas Gee, whose country residence was Dewhurst Lodge, Wadhurst, on the Sussex/Kent borders. His hobby was breeding racehorses, and he had a stud on his 230-acre estate. The article stated that some of his horses were under the management of Beverley vet Mr Holmes, i.e. the man who was tenant of Bar House in 1871. Gee had presumably purchased the house so that he could stay when he came to the races, and let it to Holmes who looked after some of his horses. This fits with the story that the tower was built by a man who wanted to watch his racehorses on Westwood/Hurn. But who was Thomas Gee, and where did his money come from?

When Thomas Gee died in 1884, several newspapers reported his death under the heading 'From the Pantry to the Drawing Room'. The story given was that Thomas had been a butler in the house of two wealthy maiden ladies of 'a certain age'. When he decided to leave their service, they were so distraught that they said one of them would marry him if he agreed to stay. He chose 'Miss Emma'. Could this really be true?

Although the details of the story are incorrect in some respects, this was indeed how Thomas 'Gee' acquired his fortune. He was born Thomas Castle at St Peter's in Thanet, Kent on 1 April 1812, the son of James and Charlotte Castle. He was almost certainly the person of that name working in the London household of the Earl of Thanet, in Gloucester Place, Marylebone, in 1841. When the bachelor Earl died in 1849, his housekeeper, Sarah Fuller, was given an annuity of £4000 per annum, and became head of the household at 78 Gloucester Place. In 1851 Thomas Castle was still living there; his occupation was 'butler'. By 1861 he was in service with the Gee sisters at 1 Hyde Park Gardens, now described as 'steward' rather than butler. (The ages of the Gee sisters, Judith and Elizabeth, were recorded in 1861 as 54 and 52, although they were considerably older than this; Judith was born in 1783 and Elizabeth in 1785!)

In May 1863 the marriage of Mr Thomas Castle, of St Peter's, Isle of Thanet, to Miss Judith Gee of

Hyde Park Gardens, eldest daughter of the late Thomas Jenkin and Elizabeth Gee of Isleworth, Co. Middx, and London Colney, Herts, was announced. Judith was almost 80 at the time of the marriage, and Thomas 51. The following notice appeared in the *London Gazette*.

Whitehall, May 8, 1863.

The Queen has been pleased to grant unto Thomas Castle, of Hyde-park-gardens, in the county of Middlesex, and of London Colney, in the county of Hertford, Gentleman, and unto Judith, his wife, eldest of the two daughters and coheirs of Thomas Jenkin Gee, late of Isleworth, in the said county of Middlesex, and of London Colney aforesaid, Esquire, deceased, Her Royal license and authority that they may, from motives of affectionate respect for the memory of the said Thomas Jenkin Gee, take and henceforth use the surname of Gee instead of that of Castle; and that the said Thomas Castle may bear the arms of Gee, such arms being first duly exemplified according to the laws of arms, and recorded in the Herald's Office, otherwise the said Royal license and permission to be void and of none effect:

And also to command that the said Royal concession and declaration be recorded in Her Majesty's College of Arms.

By 1871 Thomas and Judith Gee had acquired Dewhurst Lodge at Wadhurst and Thomas was described in the census as a landowner. In this census Judith's age was given as 71, just a fraction closer to the truth - she was actually 87. What is very strange is that the census enumerator recorded her birthplace as 'Bishop Burton', information that must have been provided by Thomas as head of the household. High Hall at Bishop Burton had been the home of the East Yorkshire Gees, a prominent family descended from a Hull merchant, from the early 17th century until the death of Roger Gee, the last of the male line, in 1778. There is no evidence whatsoever that Judith's father, Thomas Jenkin Gee, could claim any relationship to that family. Judith was born after the Bishop

Burton estate had been sold by the Gees, and her baptism took place at Kingston in Surrey, which is also recorded as her birthplace in the previous census return.

By coincidence Bar House is often claimed to be the house of 'Lady Gee' where Charles I stayed in 1642, but there is no evidence to suggest she ever owned or tenanted the house!

Susan Neave

Foodie future looking bright in Beverley

The month of May has seen two announcements which signpost a positive future for good eating in the town.

Eddie Scott, who grew up in Leicestershire, but now lives in Beverley, was proclaimed MasterChef Champion 2022. Eddie spoke of the strong influence that his parents and grandparents had on his cooking style as well as frequent holidays to France. He commented on how the coast, the Humber and the Yorkshire Wolds provide so many first-rate ingredients.

We're all hoping to see him sharing his culinary skills in the town in the near future.

And Beverley's Sumo Pan Asian triumphed as best noodle takeaway in Britain on BBC 2's 'Britain's Top Takeaways'. Located in Flemingate, the restaurant is inspired by a variety of Asian cuisine including Malay, Chinese and Thai.

The Voyages of *Pegasus* and her wreck off Holy Island in 1843

A Summary of the May Civic Society Talk by Jane Bowen

Civic Society members and guests were able to enjoy an illustrated and informative talk on a subject that was new to many of them, the history of the paddle-steamer, *Pegasus*. A passenger and cargo vessel, it travelled weekly between Leith and Hull from 1836 to 1843 when it was wrecked off Holy Island with tragic loss of life.

It was reward poster, offering £3.00 for the recovery of the bodies of the Flower children aged 13 and 11, which sparked Jane's interest in the paddle-steamer. They had been passengers on the fatal night when the ship had run aground on Goldstone Rock.

But before the tragic events of that night in 1843, the story of the *Pegasus*, provides a fascinating insight into many aspects of seagoing trade in the first half of the 19th century. The ship was built on the Clyde by the Barclay brothers, Robert and Thomas, who saw the potential in a route from Leith to Hull. The ship was a hybrid having both sails and paddles and made a weekly voyage, leaving Leith on a Saturday and returning from Hull on a Wednesday. Whilst the advertised travel time of 24 hours was perhaps rather optimistic, it was still a great deal speedier than the journey would have been by road.

The route was immediately successful. The shipping agents for the *Pegasus* were Thompson MacKay of Rochdale, and their role in shipping goods by canal from Manchester, West Yorkshire and the Midlands ensured the *Pegasus* carried a wide variety of cargo.

A cargo manifest from 1839 highlights the diverse range of goods aboard the *Pegasus*. It includes a coach and horse, fine Yorkshire woollens, cement, china and glass. Sheep, seeds wine and butter were also aboard, as well, of course, as the passengers.

Animals were regularly to be found aboard the *Pegasus*. Horses running at the St Leger featured, but even more exotically it appears that it once carried a menagerie of big cats to Edinburgh. These were part of the entertainment company of one of Queen Victoria's favourite entertainers, Mr Van Amburgh. On another occasion the paddle-steamer transported an Equestrian Theatre which recreated the tournament scene described in Sir Walter Scott's popular novel, *Ivanhoe*. It is not clear exactly how the animals were housed and secured. Possibly the cages were simply lashed to the deck which must have caused quite a stir among the passengers.

The expansion of the rail network at this time only served to increase the importance of the *Pegasus*. In 1840 the railway from London reached Hull and the station was built at the harbour. Thus, passengers from London could hop aboard the *Pegasus* and head north to visit the lochs and mountains. So it was that a second ship, the *Glenalbyn*, was bought for the route.

**TREAT DURING WHITSUN WEEK.
TO LEITH AND BACK FOR ONE FARE.**

THE splendid and powerful
Steam Ships
PEGASUS and **GLENALBYN**,
sail from **HULL** for **LEITH** every **WED-
NESDAY** and **SATURDAY**, leaving as
under :—

Pegasus, 26th May, at 8 P.M. Glenalbyn, 29th May, at 10 P.M. Pegasus, 2nd June, at 4 P.M.	Glenalbyn, 5th June, at 6 P.M. Pegasus, 9th June, at 8 P.M. Glenalbyn 12th June, at 12 Nn.
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Returning from Leith every Wednesday and Saturday After-
noon. Average Passage 2£ Hours.
Best Cabin Fare 2/3s. Second Do., 7s. 6d.

Passengers leaving Hull on the 29th May, and 2nd June, and returning from Leith on the 5th and 9th June, will only be charged *one Fare* for the Passage to LEITH AND BACK.

From Leith or Edinburgh there are Daily direct Conveyances by Land and Water, to the Lochs, Mountains, and all Parts of Scotland.

For further Information apply to the Agents,
THOMPSON, McKAY, & CO.,
8, Pier Street, Hull.

Leeds Mercury 22 May 1841

The *Pegasus* ran aground in 1836, 1839 and 1842, demonstrating the perils of its route, but no passengers were hurt, and after the 1842 misadventure near Whitby, the ship had a full overhaul. But this could not save it from disaster on 19th July 1843.

The cause of the initial grounding is unclear. Certainly, the ship was off route but it is uncertain why this was the case. It is possible that it occurred because the watch had just changed, or because the captain, and his brother who was the first mate were inexperienced or arguing. Whatever the cause, the ship hit the rocks. The two ship's boats were lowered. But the Captain ordered the ship to reverse off the rocks. This manoeuvre overturned the ship's boats and left a large hole in the hull so that the ship filled with water and sank within the hour.

Only 6 survived the disaster, 4 crewmen and 2 others. Some of those who drowned were buried on Holy Island or in St Aidan's, Bamburgh. Others were weighted down and simply buried at sea. There were approximately 70 victims, all with a story to be uncovered. But there was never really any explanation for the disaster. An inquest held in Berwick concluded that whilst the captain had not been drunk, he and the crew had been guilty of gross negligence. The only positive outcome of the events of that night were increased interest in improving safety at sea including items such as life belts, buoys and rocket lines as well as chemical flares. But all these were too late for the ill-fated passengers on the *Pegasus*.

If you want to read more about the *Pegasus*, Jane has written a book, ***From Triumph to Tragedy***—Available from Amazon (£12.90) or as an e-book (£7.99)

Guildhall July Exhibition

The latest in the series of temporary exhibitions at the Beverley Guildhall opens 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.

Beverley is a town that's been shaped by water. Its sinuous streets follow many of the streams that once ran through it, giving the town its elongated shape. The most significant of these was the Walker Beck which had an impact on the development of the town's various industries. The exhibition traces the historic courses of three main streams which ran through Beverley, and the role they have played in Beverley's story over the centuries. Other aspects of the town's relationship with water are also explored, such as land drainage, flooding, drinking water and sewers!

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

The poster features a green header with the website www.eastridingmuseums.co.uk and social media icons. Below this, the text 'EAST RIDING MUSEUMS' is displayed. The main title 'Lost Streams, Pumps and Privies' is written in a large, blue, cursive font. A row of three photographs shows a stream, a pump, and a privy. The exhibition dates '1 July to 28 October 2022' are prominently displayed in blue. The location 'Beverley Guildhall' and opening times 'Wednesdays and Fridays 10am to 4pm' are listed, along with 'Free admission'. At the bottom, logos for the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Arts Council England, and Humber Museums & Partnership are shown.

Date for your diary – Visit to Shibden Hall, Halifax on Wednesday 13th July 2022

Cancelled twice, we finally will be able to get to Shibden Hall of 'Gentleman Jack' fame.

We will leave at 9.00 a.m. from Norwood and return to Beverley at 6.00 p.m. in the evening.

The price per person will be £ 38.00, which includes the cost of the bus, the entrance fee to the Hall, and sandwiches with tea or coffee at the Mereside Centre.

More details coming soon.

You can book a place and request a booking form by contacting:
elapensee@gmx.com



Eva La Pensée

Websites you may wish to explore!

This may be interesting to members. The websites cover all of England and you can zoom into local areas, such as Beverley or any other in which you have an interest.

The first website

(<https://www.economiespast.org/mine/1881/#10/53.8152/-0.5177/bartholomew>)

shows employment levels in different trades going back to 1650. More recent data was extracted from the census reports from 1841 onwards, earlier data was taken from parish records of births, marriages which sometimes recorded occupation.

Another website from the same research group shows data on the population

(<https://www.populationspast.org/imr/1861/#6/54.393/-3.362/bartholomew>) including a variety

of statistics on child mortality, age structure and more.



**Double Guard for new Archery Field
Trees!!**

Birds Books and Belfries: An East Yorkshire Parson-Naturalist



Treasure House, Beverley - Our spring and summer exhibition explores the remarkable life and work of Reverend Francis Orpen Morris (1810 - 1893), wildlife campaigner, writer and vicar of Nafferton and Nunburnholme. The exhibition centres on Morris' beautiful natural history books printed by Benjamin Fawcett of Driffield. Contemporary film footage of the bird colonies at RSPB Bempton Cliffs shows the habitats Morris campaigned to protect. Pop into the gallery space and find out more about the exhibition which continues until 24 September.

Exhibition Tours

Come along and discover more about the exhibition with the Treasure House curator. Take a closer look at some of Morris' books on display and hear information that couldn't be squeezed in – such as how much the books would cost to buy in today's money. No need to book, meet in the exhibition space.

Wednesday 8 June 10.30am to 11am

Tuesday 14 June 2pm to 2.30pm

Saturday 18 June 10.30am to 11am

Wednesday 7 September 2pm to 2.30pm

Friday 9 September 10.30am to 11.00am

Narnia Carvings, Meet the Designers and Masons Mathias Garn, Master Mason & Partner



Narnia Sculptures at St. Mary's

The afternoon of the Study Day - Saturday 18th June 2.00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church is dedicated to the stone masons, who carried out the extensive and ambitious restoration and design work on St. Mary's. With their carvings they created a truly unique and contemporary heritage legacy, which quite rightly made headlines in the national press.

Matthias Garn is from Dresden, Germany. He followed the family tradition and after working for 6 years throughout Europe in masonry and carving workshops, he moved to England in 1998 to join Wells Cathedral Stonemasons. Soon after, he established his own business in York and was awarded an MA in Historic Conservation. Additional to many professional awards, he is also a Freeman of City of London.

“Historic buildings are complex, often mysterious things. They are comprised of layers of successive building and repair campaigns. The fabric reveals historic problem-solving, developments in craftsmanship, changing environmental factors and change of use.” (Quote from Matthias Garn)



Matthias Garn

The workshop maintains a strong link with the German apprenticeship system, whereby travel is considered an integral part of learning a craft. Some will already have met David Switalla last October talking about what it means to follow the medieval tradition of three years' training, travelling largely on foot as a journeyman. We are looking forward to some more stories of this harsh regime, now listed at UNESCO.



Journeyman David Switalla and Friends

For more details on extensive restoration and design projects see: <http://www.matthiasgarn.com>

Eva La Pensée

BEVERLEY & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

MEMBER



YHACS



Member of



CIVIC VOICE
Raising Civic Spirit

STUDY DAY SAT. 18th JUNE 2022

'One Town-Two Churches' The Heritage Legacy

	<p><u>Beverley Minster—9.30 a.m.</u> The Stained Glass of Beverley Minster: Conservation and Protection <i>Prof. Sarah Brown FSA,</i> York Glazier Trust</p>
	<p><u>Beverley Minster—11.15 a.m.</u> The Minster Sanctuary Project: A Practical Workshop <i>Anna Knowles and Cathy Thornton,</i> Community and Learning Officers</p>
	<p><u>St. Mary's Church—2.00 p.m.</u> St. Mary's Church, the Narnia Carvings: Meet the Masons and Designers <i>Matthias Garn, Master Mason & Partner</i></p>

Members £12.00 — Non-members £17.00
Incl. light refreshments a.m. and p.m
Booking form email: elapensee@gmx.com
Or Tel. 01482 869609/+44 7914669119
www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk