

Newsletter: March 2022

www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk



Dick Lidwell

Chairman's Remarks

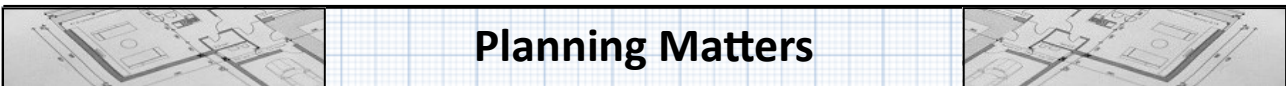


Our Society continues to be in good health being active on many projects, some of which are reported on in this newsletter. St Mary's Church has provided an excellent location for the increased numbers attending our Public Meetings, which we couldn't have accommodated in the Church Hall, and we are very grateful to Wayne Hill, one of the Church's parish assistants for helping us with running the audio system.

Every month we continue to attract a few new members whom the Executive would like to encourage to perhaps join one of our groups. Volunteers are always welcome, and in particular anyone who would like to help at our Public Meetings.

Good to see the great works on St Mary's being revealed....note article on pages 4 and 5.

Dick Lidwell



Members may have observed that the necessary road works to provide access to the new filling station north east of the Killingwoldgraves roundabout on the road to Beverley have started. The decision for a drive-through coffee shop on the other filling station site on Killingwoldgraves Lane (to the south on the road leading to Walkington traffic lights) is still under consideration. There is also an outstanding application for a number of business units on this brownfield site.

The Society held its meeting arranged by our Vice President, Graham Stuart, with Network and Northern Rail to discuss Network Rail's application for alterations to the grade II listed pedestrian bridge at the station. As previously reported, the Society is pleased to support the proposed retention and repair of the cast iron bridge, but is opposed to the wooden canopy being removed. A number of alternatives to this demolition were discussed, and the Society is awaiting an update on these from Network Rail.

An application has been lodged to install a pipe bridge over the railway as part of the previously approved Beverley District Heating scheme (Ref: 22/00082/PLF with comments to be submitted by Friday 11th March). The Society objects to this installation as it will adversely affect the environment of the listed buildings nearby; in particular the Grade II* Friary, views of Beverley Minster (Grade I) and of the station complex Grade II. As it appears there are no significant archaeological remains below the site, a tunnelling option would be preferred on this site or elsewhere, or moving its location adjacent to the existing footbridge to reduce its visual impact.



Visualisation of the proposed view looking north from Friars Lane



Town Centre Traffic and Transport



Heavy traffic restrictions - Heavy goods traffic through the town

There are traffic signs restricting vehicles over 7.5 tons from entering the town, but they appear not to be enforced. Often we can see large articulated hgv's crossing town, usually via Keldgate and Lairgate; the picture below shows a 7.5 ton truck, anything larger than this has restricted access to the town as signposted at several junctions along Minster Way.



A **retrospective** planning application has been made by webuyanycar.com to open a site on

part of the town cricket ground off Norwood, which can only be approached by a narrow unmade-up road with adjacent private housing. The increase in vehicle movements associated with this proposal will add to the adverse effect on these properties, and could raise safety issues to pedestrians. Some recording of this increase since the company started illegally trading should be carried out and evaluated. Recently a car transporter, weighing significantly more than 7.5 tons, and measuring around 10 m long, was unable to access the cricket ground, and loaded cars on Norwood, blocking traffic.

The Society has concerns that this may become the norm as business increases, creating more cars needing to be moved and subsequently more traffic issues on Norwood. Such a retail/trading operation would be more appropriately sited on one of the many available industrial and commercial trading units around Beverley.

Mike Farrimond



From Our Editors



The Civic society Executive wish to take the opportunity to thank Professor Barbara English for her invaluable service as editor of the Newsletter. Rosie Ryan, well known to many of you, and Lesley Blucke, a Beverley newcomer after only 24 years, are now taking on the editorial role.

Rosie is involved with the Tree Group, is particularly interested in gardens and architecture, and once studied History of Art. She has helped Barbara organise the Heritage Open Days.



She can be contacted at:
rosie@ryanuk.Karoo.co.uk

Lesley studied Medieval History at university, and first visited Beverley in 1984, walking hand in hand with her future husband on the Westwood. She works hard to be interested in anything that happened after 1642. She loves music, art and gardening, and runs 3-4 times a week, enjoying the Beverley streets and vistas on her slow progress.



She can be contacted at:
lesleyblucke@gmail.com

The new Editors look forward to hearing from members of the Society.

Stonehenge and the Burton ‘Drum’

In February 2022 the major exhibition THE WORLD OF STONEHENGE opened at the British Museum. All the headlines were about Burton Agnes and the grave that contained three children buried some 5000 years ago: the eldest child’s arms were wrapped around the two younger children, who were holding hands. Their deaths are carbon-dated to between 3005 BC and 2890 BC. In the grave was also a bone pin, a carved chalk ball, and the archaeologists’ greatest treasure, a ‘drum’, a solid chalk cylinder 13 cm across, looking (as even its admirers admit) remarkably like a pork pie. Not a drummer’s drum but drum-shaped: hailed as one of the most significant prehistoric objects ever found in the UK, contemporary with the first phase of Stonehenge. It is carved with patterns, with three deep holes bored in the top, made without metal tools, and now on show for the first time.

The Burton Agnes drum is related to three drums with similar patterns also found in a child’s Neolithic grave at Bording Dale, Folkton near Filey, some 15 miles away, and an unfinished or damaged drum from Lavant in Sussex. Pre-historians connect the patterns to some found in Ireland, Orkney and at Stonehenge itself....



The Burton Agnes drum—*The History Blog*



Top of the Burton Agnes drum—*British Museum*



The Folkton drums (replicas) Hull & East Riding Museum—
Barbara English

The purpose of the Burton Agnes and Folkton drums remains hidden. Ritual objects to protect the children? An offering to gods? A measuring device? Have a look and have a guess. If you can’t get to the British Museum, see the replicas of the Folkton drums in our wonderful Hull and East Riding Museum in Hull’s High Street. Open every day, free.

Barbara English

The Women of Influence at St Mary's church

The Restoration project at St Mary's church, designed to repair and preserve its 900 year old stonework, has resulted in a series of carvings depicting just a selection of some of the women who have made extraordinary contributions to a variety of fields including science, medicine, technology and literature. The carvings were commissioned after it was established that the earlier external carvings on the South Nave Clerestory were beyond repair and there was no record of what these carvings had represented. The nine women shown include Ada Lovelace, the first computer programmer, Rosalind Franklin who aided the discovery of the structure of DNA, Mary Seacole known for her nursing throughout the Crimean War, Amy Johnson the aviator, and Mary Wollstonecraft, philosopher and advocate of women's rights.

These carvings can now be seen on the south side of St Mary's, in the vicinity of St Catherine's chapel (see next page). It is fitting that these more recent pioneering women should be celebrated alongside their medieval counterparts, including St Hilda and St Ethelburga (in stained glass), when women in the church were renowned for their influence, piety and scholarship.



Mary Seacole

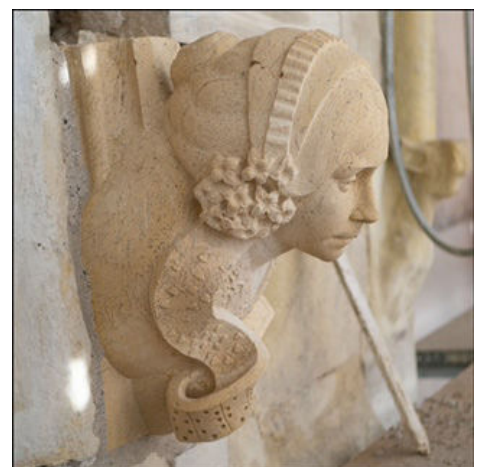
These images show some of the sculptures before they were mounted on the church wall. On the next page three of the women are shown in situ, together with the location of the other sculptures.



Hilda Lyon

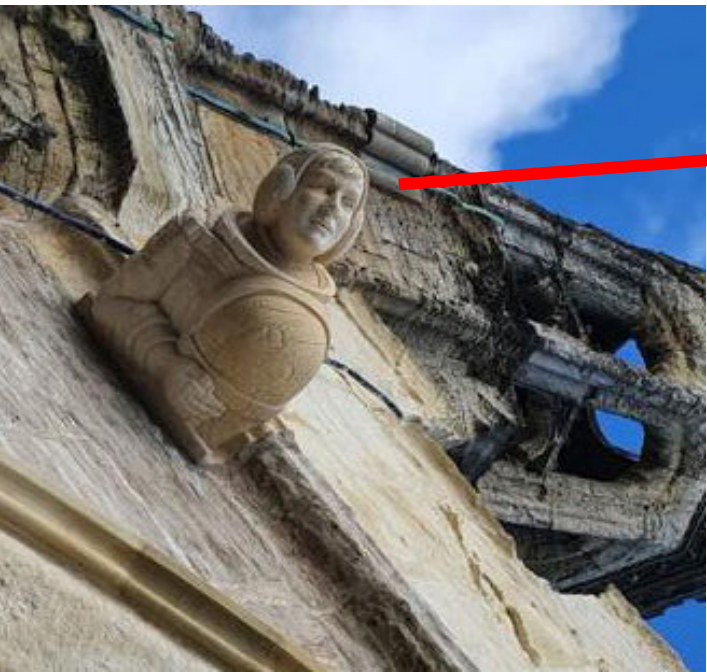


Amy Johnson
John Duncan



Ada Lovelace
John Duncan

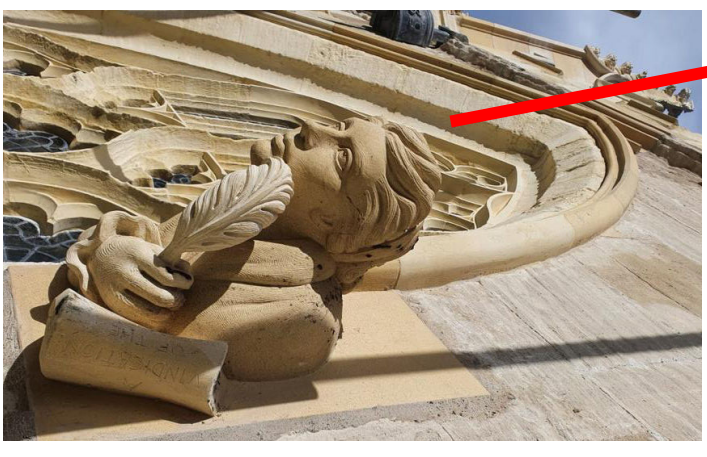
For more information about the selection and commissioning of the carvings please take a look at St Mary's church website stmarysbeverley.org



Helen Sharman, Astronaut— “closest carving to the stars”



Marie Curie



Mary Wollstonecraft

- 1 Helen Sharman
- 2 Rosalind Franklin
- 3 Amy Johnson
- 4 Hilda Lyon
- 5 Marie Curie
- 6 Ada Lovelace
- 7 Mary Seacole
- 8 Mary Wollstonecraft

Images of carvings courtesy
of St Mary's Church



Lamp Standard Reconstructions

It has been wonderful to see the reconstruction of two lamp standards in Beverley Town Centre, the first at the North End of Saturday market (see picture left) and the second on Toll Gavel near Cross Street (see picture right).

Whilst the latter is probably a 20th century addition to the town, the former is mid 19th century and notable for its nameplate suggesting the lamp was made at Coalbrookdale, the famous foundry where



Abraham Darby made superior metal with the use of coke. The particularly striking design for the lantern was by Ivan Hall, a former illustrious member of the Civic Society. This replaced an early design by Malam from about 1825.

Although these lamps are by no means the oldest in the town it is heartening to see their restoration and the EYRC are to be congratulated for the excellent work. Special thanks to Paul Tripp (Street Scene Head plus) for adding to the everyday enjoyment of walking through the streets of our town.

Presentation to Yorkshire Air Ambulance

As a result of selling almost 500 copies of their 2022 “Discovering Beverley” Calendar the Beverley & District Civic Society have raised £1500 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and nearly £1300 to support the Society’s local activities. The Society thanks all those individuals and organisations who generously both promoted and bought the calendar.

Pictured: Chris Burrows, Colin Bradshaw and Richard Lidwell of the Civic Society are seen presenting a cheque to Marion Gamble the local representative of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.



Slowing the Flow, Natural Flood Management, and Beavers doing it on the cheap

Our February talk focussed on Flood Management. Our speaker, Mike Potter, a Ryedale District Councillor, emphasised the top priority of controlling climate change, but then outlined how best to limit damage from flood events. He described the causes of water flow and risk of flooding increasing in times of heavy rain. These included river dredging and creating artificial smooth channels. On the surrounding land, removal of tree, hedge and shrub growth; agricultural land compacted and /or left bare over winter; downhill ploughing; creation of moorland drainage channels; and, across the country, increased use of impermeable surfaces.

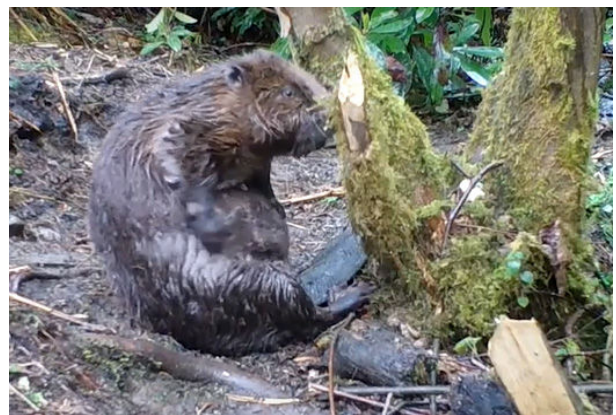
Conversely, the flow can be slowed by 'leaky dams' - structures across the watercourse which in normal times let water to pass through, but act as a brake on strong and fast flowing water. Planting of trees, hedges and even tussocky grass, slow water movement both on the surface and through the soil due to root networks. Creation of green roofing, soakaways, and small ponds all delay water reaching the main channels. Allowing rivers to resume their natural meandering flow also helps. Flood prevention needs a whole catchment approach - many 'slow the flow' measures are appropriate for the uplands, but in urban areas water may need to pass more rapidly, and flood walls and dredging can be appropriate. Above all, a whole catchment approach should recognise that



Engineered Bund (still a leaky dam) - Mike Potter

flood plains exist as nature's overflow areas - blocking them through building only exacerbates problems.

The 'slow the flow' methods described are possible; paying for them remains a problem. This is where beavers who create and maintain their own dams, ponds, and develop coppiced plant growth, can contribute. On a Devon river, over four years, by building 13 dams in a 183 metre length of the river, beavers lowered peak flows by 30%, and delayed the flow by up to an hour. It was such information which encouraged Ryedale to bring beavers to Cropton. A pair were obtained from Scotland in April 2019; with natural breeding their number has now increased to eight. They have opened up some of the forest area through coppicing and felling, increasing biodiversity; they have repaired two existing ponds, and raised water levels by making a six foot high dam to protect their lodge. Also, the filtering created by their work has improved the water quality of the area.



Forestry Commission

Mike concluded his talk by discussing the key requirements to bring about change. Those involved need a sound knowledge of the issues and a 'can do' attitude. Most importantly, they need to focus on DELIVERY, not plans!

Beverley and District Talking Newspaper

The *Beverley & District Talking Newspaper* is seeking listeners! This is a *completely free* service for people who are blind, partially sighted or with other problems who would welcome a Talking Newspaper disc sent to them each week.

During the Covid pandemic the weekly recording of news and views from our region was recorded and delivered on time and warmly welcomed by our listeners, many of whom live alone.

Please tell as many people as you can about the Beverley and District Talking Newspaper: word-of-mouth advertising is the best kind, particularly for those with sight problems. Beverley Civic Society members can help with this so, please, if you will, spread the word for us. If you or any of your friends knows someone who might benefit from this entirely free service, do telephone Carolleanne Lees 01482 657073 or me, Patricia Towers 01482 881801 and we will send them a disc.



BCS April 2022 Talk Change of Date

For April there is a change of date! Instead of 14th April, which is during Easter Week, **the same talk will now take place in St Mary's Church on Thursday 7th April 2022.**

Talk at Little Weighton

A talk by local, well-known historian, Prof. Barbara English on

'The Deserted Villages – Rowley and Beyond'.

at Little Weighton Village Hall,
on **Friday, 11th March 2022.**

7.30 for 7.45pm start.

Tickets £4 from Lt. Weighton Post Office from mid-February.

More info from 07714.089289.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 21/22



A gentle reminder that subs for 21/22 were due in October 21.



Many thanks to those who responded to my recent email.

Sandra Williams

Mary Wollstonecraft



An illustrated talk by Val Wise

Thursday 10 March 2022
7.30 p.m.

St. Mary's Church, Beverley

Non-members welcome £5