

# Newsletter:

## May 2022

[www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk](http://www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk)



### Chairman's Remarks



Our annual public talks programme is coming towards its end, but finishing on a high note featuring what promises to be a fascinating talk on a little known Victorian paddle ship, The *Pegasus*, which provided a weekly service between Hull and Leith, but met its end in a sea disaster. Put 7.30pm Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary's in your diaries now. To complete this year's programme we have our study day in June (see page 8), and a visit to Shibden Hall, of TV's 'Gentleman Jack' fame, in July

to look forward to.



Easter has come and gone but spring, despite our customary north easterly lazy winds providing a chilly background to the warming sunshine, continues; witness this year's great show of blue bells, flowering May and trees bursting into life at Burton Bushes.

*Dick Lidwell*

### Tree Group News

The planting season has come to an end, and we are now looking for potential sites in and around town for next winter, any ideas are very welcome.



Collecting Free Fruit Tree

The Archery Field, thanks to the involvement of Humber Forests, has now got the makings of a softening hedge and some splendid specimen native trees at the Westwood end.



The Archery Field

The fruit trees that were given away in January are blossoming - though don't expect a bumper harvest

this year, and the trees we helped fund on the Westwood and the Beverley streets are establishing well too.



Sue McCallum with Richard, Maxine and Allan English Chairman of the Pasture Masters



We are very grateful that through the Civic Society's close involvement we have been able to improve the bio-diversity and aesthetically enhance the built landscape within our town, and we are not the only Civic Society who are broadening their remit.

You may know that our Civic Society is a member of Civic Voice and we responded to their survey - see below. (Civic Voice Update 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022)



Some CS Tree Group members with Leah Hallett, Humber Forests

To inform the recent research report, [Civic Societies and the Planning Process](https://www.henley.ac.uk/news/2022/civic-societies-and-the-planning-process), the Department of Real Estate & Planning team at the University of Reading, undertook an independent survey of Civic Societies' activities. The survey asked societies various questions, as they explored how Civic Societies were involved in the planning system and their relationship with reaching out to the broader community. For full results see:-

<https://www.henley.ac.uk/news/2022/civic-societies-and-the-planning-process>

One of the key stories this report brings to light is that Civic Societies are reporting that there has been a shift and change in their activities recently. We all know about the extraordinary amount of time and energy Civic Societies put into engaging with the statutory planning system. Nevertheless, the report has demonstrated the increased importance of environmental issues for Civic Societies.

In light of this, we dedicate this week's Civic Update to the work of Civic Societies and the environment.

Many Civic Societies are involved in flood resilience activities, green space protection and management; promotion of green corridors; cycling/walking initiatives and creating climate change awareness.

Gill Battarbee, Civic Voice, Lead for Climate Change said: "The potential adverse consequences of climate change will require planning and changes to how we live, and as quoted in the report, the civic movement has a vital role in climate change awareness. I am proud to be Civic Voice's Lead on Climate Change and I ask Civic Societies to contact me and join our new network."



ERYC Tree planters with Barbara English and Chris Harrod, Copandale Road

With thanks to everyone who helped to support our tree planting year, and whilst trying not to wish away the promise of Spring and Summer, we looking forward to the year's end when we can start again.

*Rosie Ryan*



Residents of Andrews Court, Molescroft Road, with Lime tree



## Beverley Guildhall Exhibition

Beverley Guildhall will be hosting the first outing of a 'Popup Memory Museum', showing audio-visual presentations aimed at stimulating people's memories of Beverley, and starting with a specially-created video of 'Memories of Hodgson's Tannery'.

It features the voices of several people who worked there, as well as many photographs and excerpts from Ernest Symmons' film 'Romance of Leather', which has been remastered and kindly provided for us by the Yorkshire Film Archive. The 25 minute film will run on a loop throughout the day, so there is no need to book, just pop in and stay for as long as you want. It will be running until 1st July.

We're open Wednesdays 10am - 1pm and Fridays 10am - 4pm. Come and see it - it's really good!

*Kloskk Tyrer*



*Coincidentally, long term CS member, Edward Ball, sent us this early photograph of the Tannery which he believes to be c.1890. He obtained it from Elsie Hammond who was secretary to George Odey, the Managing Director of the Tannery.*



## Planning Matters

A couple of updates, as we go to press, on planning applications we have mentioned before. The plan for constructing a Pipe Bridge for the District Heating System over the railway at the end of Friars Lane has been withdrawn. We await news of any development. The application made by 'We Buy Any Car Ltd' at the Norwood cricket ground is still under consideration.



The Society has made a planning application to move the green memorial plaque to William Crosskill, the famous Victorian industrialist, from Walkergate House (The Registry Office) to the Grosvenor Club building. Apparently in earlier times both houses had been referred to as 'Walkergate House' which is where William Crosskill lived. Recent research has revealed that in fact it was the Grosvenor Club building where he resided in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. We hope to have the plaque in its correct location in time

for the Heritage Open Days in September, the theme for which is 'Astounding Inventions', including, of course, those of William Crosskill.

We understand that some of our weblinks in the April Newsletter failed to open for some members; my apologies for this error. I haven't included any links this time round, but would still encourage members to have a look at ERYC's Public Access website to review current applications; just search; ERYC planning to find the page.



Grosvenor Club building, Walkergate

## Civic Society's accounts

As readers may remember from a previous edition of our newsletter, our long-standing accountant, Richard Miles, has retired from Jackson Robson. Consequently, we would like to find another who can prepare the annual accounts from our detailed banking records prior to our AGM, usually in October.

If any member knows of an accountant (preferably not a member of the Civic Society) who would be willing to do this for us on a "pro bono" basis, but with a small honorarium, then please get in touch with our Treasurer, Mike Farrimond.



## The Curious Carvings of St. Mary's Church

At our April meeting, Dr Jennie England, in her role as Learning Officer, part funded by the Heritage Lottery fund, reported on her research and new finds. Since 2019, this project has concentrated on the astonishing variety of images and decoration on the ceiling of St. Mary's Church, a building of national significance.

The audience of 80 was asked to consider three questions:

- What are St. Mary's carvings about?
- What might they be able to tell us about the church?
- Are these the right questions and are they relevant for the historic context?

Visitors are made aware how closely the ties of the burgesses of Beverley were to their parish church, by sculptures at the top of some of the columns of named groups of people who donated generously. There is the vivid group of minstrels, the two busts of Johannes Crosley mercatoris and his wife, not to mention the 'good wives'.

The generosity of the burgesses was particularly impressive in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In 1520 the central tower fell into the nave. A new richly coloured and decorated ceiling could be admired after its restoration in March 1531. To the astonishment of the parishioners, the new wooden ceiling in the nave was adorned with 247 unique bosses in bright colours. These carvings decorate the intersection of the beams. Since the Norman conquest, bosses became increasingly popular. Indeed, the term originates from Old French 'boche' or 'bosso' meaning a bump. Altogether, St Mary's boasts 700 such 'bumps' all over the ceiling, which is far more numerous than any other church in the area.

Although so remarkable to us, the bosses were hardly mentioned in previous descriptions and publications about the church. Since the 1940s, few details have been discovered. Perhaps the distance made it difficult to appreciate their imagery or they were simply seen as not sufficiently important. The exception might be the 'Ceiling of Kings' above the chancel, which was created in 1445. They include Anglo-Saxon kings to align the church with royal traditions. (Research Pamela Hopkins).



King Athelstan and St John of Beverley boss

Thanks to the modern technology and evaluation techniques, we have gained new insights:

- All bosses have been counted and photographed with high definition photography.
- Drone images uncovered even more details.
- Models were produced at York University, which turned out to be cubes of a foot square.
- Essential insight was gained into the carving process and the astonishing craftsmanship employed to stop the bosses falling down even after centuries.

Detailed analysis of paint layers revealed that the lively original medieval colours were covered

with brown paint and then recoloured in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Only the bosses in the vestry remained unchanged. The brown paint made the bosses invisible to churchgoers and therefore they did not distract from Puritan worship.

An archive and an online database are now in existence to inspire art, design and creative writing.

Needless to say, the presentation was a feast for our eyes and the rich and varied images shown opened a window in the medieval mind.

Jennie's dedication and enthusiasm in leading this project has given these unique and numerous images a new importance in the heritage of the town. She has also written an expertly and beautifully presented book, offering a guided tour of all parts of the ceiling in the building— 'Curious Carvings, The Roof Bosses of St. Mary's Beverley' available in the church for £5.00.

*Eva La Pensée*

## Future Website



We are about to embark on a project to look at a new website for the Society and are seeking one individual to play a leading part in creating and delivering this vision. Are you interested or do you know someone with good computer skills and creative flair? Although it would be nice if the person was a member of the Society, this is not essential, especially if they were mainly in full time work or education.

If you would like to learn more please contact Chris Burrows by email [goodtymeshull@hotmail.com](mailto:goodtymeshull@hotmail.com) or 01482 866252

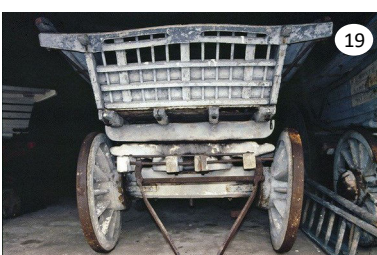
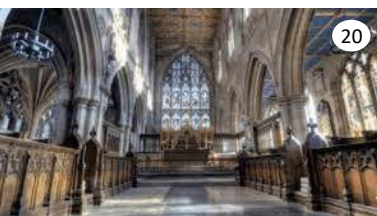
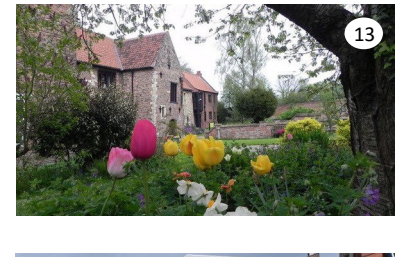
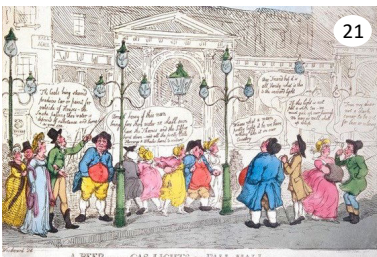
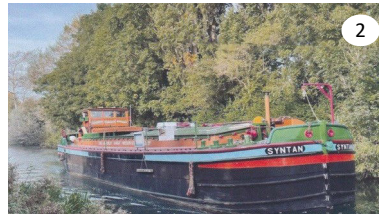
You may also wish to have a look at our existing website [www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk](http://www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk)





# heritage open days 9-18 September 2022

This is England's largest FREE festival of history and culture, bringing together over 2000 local people and organisations. Beverley Civic Society has taken part in the Festival since 2014, and, with Hull, opens buildings and gardens, and organises walks and talks. Last year we had more than 9000 visits: this year's programme is outlined below. For details, look online (<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>) from 1 May, or study the free printed programme out later.



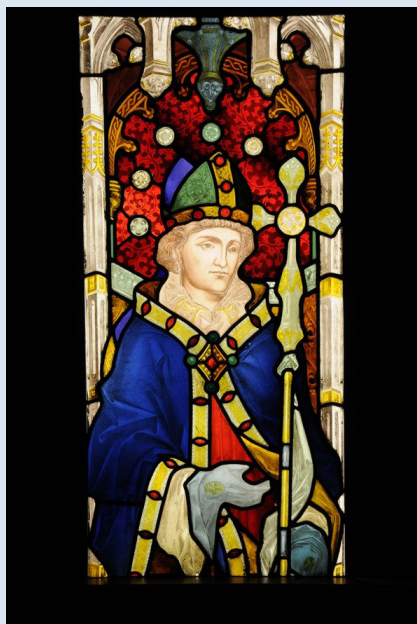
1. Aike, Laurel Vines
2. Barges on Beverley Beck
3. Beverley Grammar School
4. Beverley Guildhall
5. Beverley High School
6. Beverley Minster
7. Minster Sanctuary & Herb Garden
8. Minster Secret Garden
9. Bishop Burton College walled garden
10. Butt Farm Battery
11. County Hall
12. East Riding Theatre
13. Friary
14. Highgate No 2
15. Lairgate Hall
16. Monks' Walk
17. Norwood House
18. Beverley Allotments
19. Skidby Mill
20. St Mary's Church
21. Talk: The History of Gas
22. Toll Gavel Church
23. Treasure House
24. Walk: Feminist & Philosopher, Wollstonecraft & Arden
25. Walk: Lairgate Gossip
26. Walk: The Gasman Cometh

## Beverley Civic Society Study Day — Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022

The theme this year is about the heritage legacy from the extensive restoration of Beverley's iconic medieval churches.

It is also Civic Voice Day and as members, celebrating 3 heritage projects as a result of the 'One Town Two Churches' restoration scheme, we will join this nationwide network event with our very own local message.

The West Window of Beverley Minster will take centre stage with an illustrated talk by Professor Sarah Brown from York Glazier Trust. It will remind us that glass has been around for thousands of years and is a truly ubiquitous material very much taken for granted. In this way, we are joining the declaration of naming '2022 Year of the Glass' by the United Nations. The list of uses and applications is endless.



The Minster's ancient right of sanctuary today:

938 king Athelstan endowed the Minster with 'the right of sanctuary' extending two miles from St. John of Beverley's tomb - a privilege, which attracted many fugitives and pilgrims to the town. Apart from telling this story, giving sanctuary is relevant today. Anna and Cathy, the Learning and Engagement Officers for the Sanctuary Project, will give an insight into their work in Primary Schools and present the resources which they have developed for teachers.

100 places are available and the events will take place in the Minster between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Please email: [elapensee@gmx.com](mailto:elapensee@gmx.com) for a booking form, or at the next talk 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

*Eva La Pensée*

### The Voyages of the Paddle Steamer *Pegasus* and her Wreck off Holy Island in 1843



An illustrated talk by  
Jane Bowen

Thursday 12 May 2022  
7.30 p.m.  
St. Mary's Church, Beverley

Non-members welcome £5