

Newsletter:

May 2023

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



Chairman's Remarks

Bluebells in Burton Bushes traditionally herald the next cycle of our seasons, with Spring advancing despite our usual chilly Northern winds! We welcome also the return of the cattle on to Westwood; one of Beverley's unique historic features, as was the first race meeting of the year.



We are coming to the end of this season's Public talks; the last being a treat from Barbara English on '1066 and All that; the earliest illustration of an English King'; a timely event following the Coronation in May. Although for a number of reasons we are not organising a summer outing this year, we do have another event to entertain you in June; a members' garden party at the *Monks Walk* in Highgate. Full details are below; as numbers are limited please do sign up early to avoid disappointment.

Dick Lidwell

WE HAVE WAITED SO LONG

We have waited so long
for the day just now exploding
into spring
and still it takes me by surprise
as long legged girls with streaming hair
stride across a morning
full of song
blackthorn trembles in the cold
and timber shaded leaves
absorb the brightness of the air
beeches dance in skirts
of shimmering green
casting tangled shadows
on the bruised and cracking ground
we have waited so long

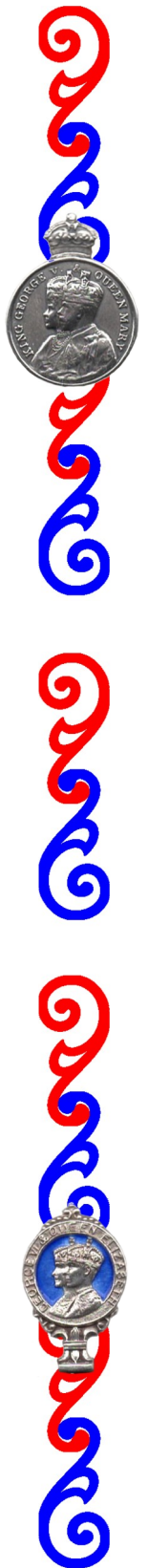
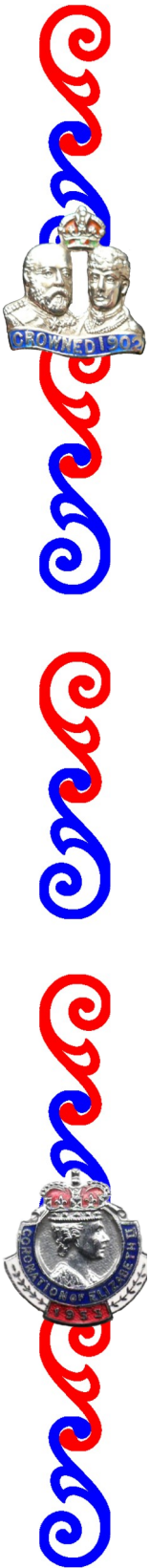
Felicity Redfern

Members are invited to submit an original poem which might be relevant to the town, its history or the season.



CORONATION CEREMONIAL

The coronation of King Charles III on 6 May will not only provide pageantry, but for those with an interest in such things, an opportunity to come to grips with the very ancient ceremony by which kings of England, and now of the United Kingdom were and are created. Here in the Civic Society, we are particularly fortunate that our own Barbara English has agreed to set these traditions in context in her talk. With Saturday's scenes still bright in our memory, this promises to be a fascinating account of matters we generally take for granted. JMB



Creative Commons

1066 and all that: the Earliest Illustration of the Coronation of an English King

Professor Barbara English MBE, FSA, FRHistS

Thursday, 11 May 2023 at 7.30 p.m.
St.Mary's Church, Beverley



Creative Commons



House of Parliament visit for the All Party Parliamentary Group for Civic Societies on Tuesday March 21st 2023.



Arriving at the House of Parliament to attend a meeting on behalf of the Beverley Civic Society included a number of firsts for me. After finding the right entrance, joining the security queue and getting my visitors pass, on walking around the corner I was

amazed to be in the Westminister Hall, where Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth had laid in rest.

In the Jubilee Room the main topic for discussion was "How we level up our heritage high streets". With over 500 conservation areas at risk, and half of them being heritage town centres, we discussed the need to find more solutions to support these important places. A core message was the importance of partnerships, and how effective partnerships between civic societies, community groups, councils and other stakeholders are essential in our efforts to develop strategies that will help safeguard the character of our heritage town centres and ensure their viability and sustainability for future generations.

Civic societies, community groups and other societies that were present have been invited to submit relevant examples of successful partnerships, delivering town centre projects which will be compiled to highlight best practices to encourage other groups to follow suit. We in Beverley will learn from these examples.

The main take-away from the meeting is that just working with EYRC is not enough, we need to liaise with all other Beverley stakeholders and make our town centre fit for purpose in the coming years.

The day ended with a quick guided tour up to the central lobby, which was all a buzz with TV crews in preparation for a certain ex PM's appearance before the select committee the following day.

Neil Harris April 2023

Summer Evening Social

We are having our annual "Summer Evening" on Thursday June 8th. This year we are at the lovely secluded garden at the *Monks Walk* Pub on Eastgate.

Members (and guests) are invited to join us from 6 p.m. Food will be served at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are priced £10 which includes food. Drinks may be purchased from the bar.

The pub has a limited capacity so tickets will be supplied on a first come first served basis. You can pay at the next talk (May 11th at 7.30) or into the Society's account.

Beverley and District Civic Society
Sort Code 05-02-37
Account number 27597439

Planning Matters

A short update of some town planning matters:

Members may have observed works in North Bar Within between the entrances to St Mary's Manor and Coombes Yard. These are to provide four EV charging points to help meet the increasing demand for electric charging points, and will add to the Council's existing points in the Grayburn Lane and Spencer Street carparks.

Network Rail have published their plans to meet the planning conditions following the approval to remove the pedestrian bridge wooden canopy. The Society remains very disappointed that the historic canopy is to be removed and replaced by a metal mesh barrier (cf Cottingham's station bridge). The cast iron bridge remains with much needed repairs following years of poor maintenance. The new colour scheme of maroon (remember the early 1960's BR coach livery) for the bridge and barrier is acceptable, but the Society has objected to the brash blue and yellow colouring for the metal structure adjoining the roof of the station. For details see: 23/30129/CONDET.

We are awaiting an update on progress with the Lord Roberts Road housing application which attracted a large number of objections from many organisations and individuals.

As is well known the decision for the new recycling centre off Grange Road was deferred by the planning committee, and we await further information on the plans.

Finally ERYC's Local Plan Update has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. For further information on the submission, see: www.eastriding.gov.uk/localplanupdate.

Dick Lidwell

The 'Eagle' misericord, a postscript

The Newsletter editors have kindly allowed me to add a postscript to the item in the March 2023 newsletter, on this misericord at the NE end of St Mary's choirstalls.

Since our March newsletter, scholars have sent me various interpretations of our very rare musical Magnificat carving. Dogs, swans and geese have been suggested for the livestock. The most detailed study is by the French scholar Frédéric Billiet of the Sorbonne, who in an essay published in honour of the late Brian Levy of Beverley and Hull University, describes the scene as two foxes singing the Magnificat from a music book on an eagle lectern, the folios held open by the foxes' paws. The foxes wear friars' cowls called 'capuches', associated with preaching. Misericord images frequently use foxes or other animals to mock friars, who were seen as rivals by the more conservative religious orders: at St Mary's there is another misericord image (S4) of two foxes with cowls, crosiers and stolen geese. No-one today seems quite certain how to interpret these apparent satires.



Barbara English

Beverley's Railway Map

On the west platform of our station, north end, is this remarkable survival.



The tiled map at Beverley Station 2023. *Barbara English*



Part of the tile frame of the map.
Barbara English

A voice from the past. The helpful label tells us the map, on tiles with a tile border, was made in Shropshire by the firm of Craven Dunnill at Jackfield c.1900. It covers much more than East Yorkshire, being made for the rail network of the North Eastern Railway Company, later the LNER. About 25 of these maps were once built into the walls of stations, but only nine are in their original locations, with others in

museums. Many of the rail lines on the map were abolished by the Beeching Axe, in a huge miscalculation of the country's future need for railways. Imagine if we still had the Beverley-York line which, as well as avoiding the perils of the A1079, ran through some of the most beautiful parts of the Wolds.

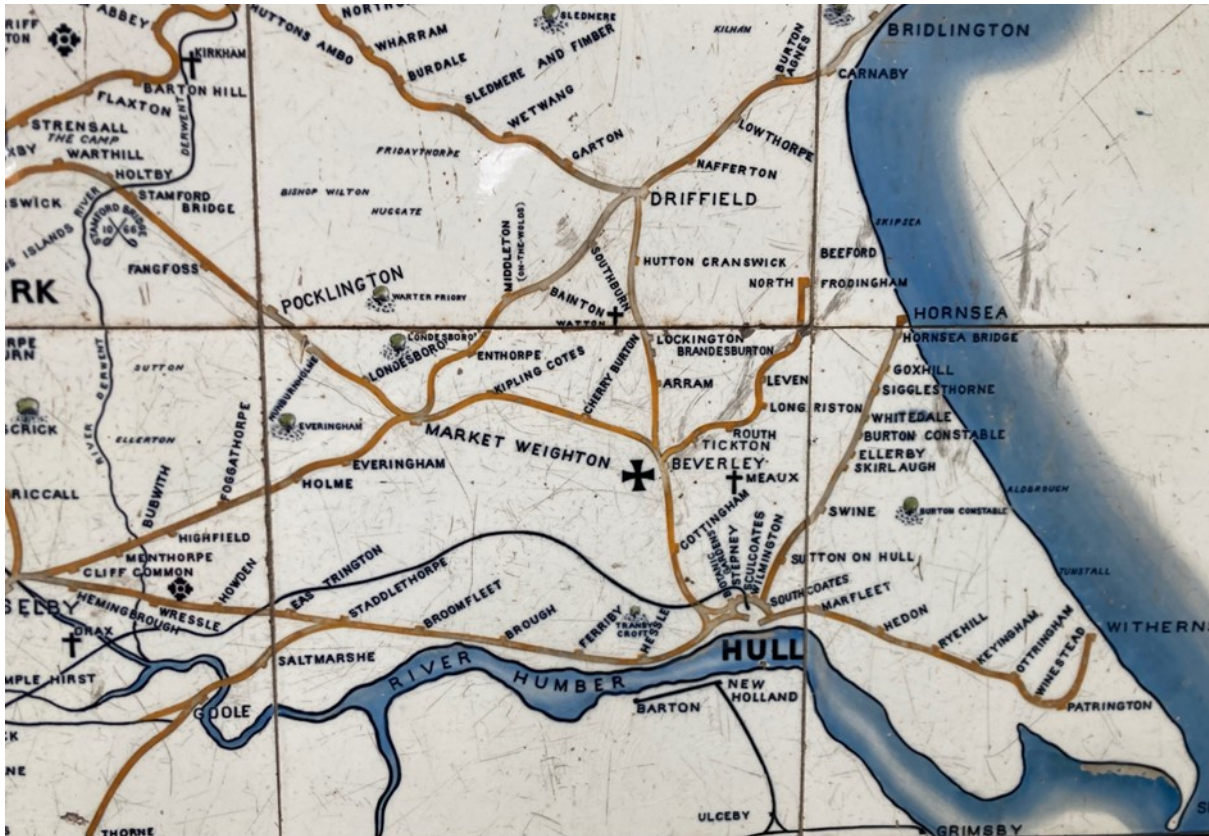
Craven Dunnill Jackfield are still making wonderful tiles, as they have since 1872. As the oldest surviving purpose-built tile factory in the world, the Jackfield factory is now part of the Ironbridge World Heritage Site Museum Trust, and the firm has recently begun to recreate these charming tile railway maps from the original patterns. Beverley is the only station in the East Riding to have kept its original in place (there is one at York); Hunmanby in 2021 installed one of the recreated tile maps at its much-loved station, as part of Heritage Open Days.

There are two curiosities of the East Riding section. For railway historians, the line never built, the North Holderness Railway, is shown running to North Frodingham via Tickton, Routh, Long Riston, Leven and Brandesburton, all of which were to have stations. When the map was created, the line already had Parliamentary approval (in 1897). Initially proposed as standard gauge, because of rising costs and the marshy land the scheme was reduced to a light railway, then a narrow-gauge before finally being



Tiling in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin by Craven Dunnill Jackfield. *Creative Commons*

operated as a bus service. The railway scheme was abandoned in 1903 but by then the maps were made and in place.



Detail of the Beverley station tiled map. *Barbara English*

Beverley is marked on the map with a Maltese cross and Meaux with a Latin cross. The map key shows that Beverley's cross marks a 'cathedral' and the Meaux cross an abbey: strange choices as Beverley does not have a cathedral and none of Meaux abbey is above ground. Burton Constable has the 'park' symbol (which looks like an egg on straw?). The other elements of the key were castles and battles: these seven presumably being what might attract Edwardian tourists to take the train.



Beverley station. *Pat Deans*

Could we cherish our station in Beverley a little more? The station of 1846 by the famous railway architect G.T. Andrews with its signal box, canopied footbridge and later 1900s tile map are all grade II listed by Historic England. The buildings have been altered over the years, not to their advantage. The wonderful garden on the E side has become a tip (although the Beverley in Bloom planting around the car park is excellent). Around the station buildings there are many boring negative railway notices, but only one small plan saying Welcome to Beverley on the W side where most arriving passengers will not see it, and no welcome on the E side.

The snack dispenser is broken and the footbridge locked off. We who wait for trains would love to have something lively, funny or interesting to look at: the photograph below shows the station in the 1960s, when the walls were covered with brightly coloured posters. Until they return I recommend studying the tile railway map.

Barbara English

Two Noted Beverley Tennis Players

In Beverley, the Hodgson name is generally associated with the Tannery, which in the late 19th century was the largest employer in the town, and by the end of the First World War, 'was one of the largest and best equipped leather producing factories in the country'. (Tanning in the Town - East Riding Museums Leaflet 2020). One member of the family, however, achieved distinction in another field. Constance Hodgson, a granddaughter of the firm's founder, and youngest daughter of Col. Richard Hodgson, his successor, proved to be a keen tennis player, and in 1884 at Scarborough aged 16, became the first Yorkshire Women's Singles champion, a title she successfully defended the following year. Constance continued to play competitive tennis throughout the 1880s and the early 1890s.

On 31 August 1898, she married Dr. William Herbert Gregory, who had succeeded his father in medical practice in the town. They had two sons, David Alexander and John Colin, generally known as Colin. It is said that his mother began coaching Colin in tennis when he was about eight years old. He won the Yorkshire men's singles title when he was 19 in 1923, a title he retained for the next four years, and added the North of England title to it in 1924, when he also made his first singles appearance at Wimbledon. He represented Britain in the Davis Cup from 1926 to 1930, and in 1928 led the British touring team to America, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. In 1929, in Australia, he became the men's singles champion, and was ranked the No.1 player in Britain. He was also a noted doubles player, reaching international finals on a number of occasions, and winning the German Mixed Doubles Championship in 1930. These successes were gained in tandem with studying medicine at London, and qualifying in 1928. On at least two occasions Colin's medical knowledge was used to assist other players in tournaments. In 1928, he found himself treating his German Davis Cup opponent for a sprained ankle, and then, when Davis Cup Captain in 1950, he treated an Italian player for exhaustion during the British Italian Match at Eastbourne.



John Colin Gregory by Bassano Ltd
whole-plate glass negative, May 1932
Given by Bassano & Vandyk Studios, 1974
Photographs Collection NPG x150196
© National Portrait Gallery, London

During the 1930s Colin concentrated on his medical work, moving to a practice in Hemel Hempstead, where he remained for the rest of his life. After the Second World War, he was appointed non-playing captain of the British Davis Cup team in 1949. It was then while leading the team in Belgrade, that he completed what was generally regarded as one of his greatest tennis achievements. One of the doubles players, G.L.Paish, was injured, and Colin, now 49, stepped in to take his place, and with his partner, Tony Mottram, won the vital match. In 1955 he was made Chairman of the All England Club at Wimbledon. Although no longer playing competitively, it was at the Wimbledon Club in 1959 that he died from a heart attack after a doubles game played with members of his family.



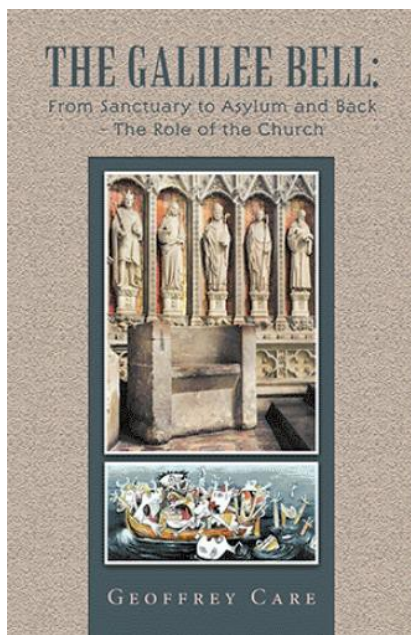
Courtesy of Josefin Lundmark, Kungl. Lawn Tennis Klubben, Stockholm

My interest in Colin Gregory was sparked by a bookmark I purchased which was inscribed for the Gregory Cup 1959. It seems that in 1947, through a friendship with several Scandinavian players, Colin initiated an amateur tennis competition to be played between teams from the All England Club and its equivalent clubs in Copenhagen, Stockholm, and for a period, Oslo, which continues to this day. The teams consist of 8 elite players, four of whom must be veterans. Colin provided a silver cup for the competition, inscribed "For the love of the game and the friendship of our people", which seems to well encapsulate the spirit in which he played the game he loved.

Jane Bowen



The Galilee Bell



Society Members might be interested in a recent publication by Geoffrey Care, *The Galilee Bell*, which examines the role of the Church in both Sanctuary and Asylum. Many of the tales are based on Beverley Minster which, owing to its popularity as a place of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages, became a prominent place of Sanctuary.

Copies are available in the bookshop on Butcher's Row, in the Minster itself and on Amazon.
ISBN: 9781982286842

News on Trees

Please remember to collect a blue coin at Tesco and vote for Street Trees for Beverley!

This goes on until June!!



Tales from the Family Archives- Adventures in beekeeping

The Society enjoyed an interesting and entertaining talk from Wendy Maslin in April. Wendy, a master beekeeper, shared stories of her family's history of beekeeping as well as modern methods and the concerns so often expressed about the future of our bee population.

Wendy's great great grandma moved up the East coast on Christmas Day of 1850 with her bees carried in skeps (an upturned straw basket) under the cart. Her son was a blacksmith and they established an apiary behind the forge. The journey, which took between 3-5 hours, must have been trying for the bees, as well as the humans.

Her grandfather also kept bees, starting in 1905 and aside from a mesh headgear wore no other protective clothing. He lost all his bees in 1921 due to a probable virus called 'Isle of Wight disease'. It is just one example of the many threats to the bee population and, after its arrival on the mainland, bees had to be imported from abroad. He moved from cut comb to extracted honey and won many prizes. An interview he gave to a lecturer from Leeds means that the stories of his experiences as a bee keeper have not been lost.

In time the old skeps were replaced with moveable frame hives, more like what we would expect to see today. Earlier, skeps would be weighed and a decision made on whether to keep the bees alive or kill them. A heavy skep was indicative of a heavy honey load and a light skep of bees too weak to be fully productive if it survived the winter at all. The bees would then be killed, either in a sulphur pit, or with darts impregnated with sulphur. In Europe the bees were drowned. Luckily such practices no longer occur.

Wendy is now part of the family tradition of beekeeping starting in 2004. As a master bee keeper, she is one of 9-10 within Yorkshire and the low hundreds within the UK. As well as seven written papers there are four practical exams. As part of the Beverley Beekeepers Association, she's kept pretty busy! This can often involve managing swarms, when half the colony leaves with the original queen to set up a new colony, not always in the most convenient places. She also specialises in extracted honey.

The inhabitants of the hive start and end with the Queen Bee. She is larger than the others and there is generally only one Queen Bee in each hive. The worker bees, all female, have a myriad of tasks. They tend to the Queen, feed the young, collect water and forage to feed the hive and produce the wax which keeps the food store water proof. They also clean up the dead. The drones, male, have the sole purpose of mating with the Queen. They mate with the Queen on the wing and die following this process. Once the Queen has completed enough mating flights she will never leave the hive again. Any drones remaining are ejected from the hive in September, when the weather turns too cold for them to mate. Thus, they have no further use. The Queen will lay her body weight in eggs within 24 hours.

Bees are not our only pollinators, there are also bats and butterflies but most of us are aware that bees are deemed to be in trouble. There is the loss of habitat, garden, meadows and hedgerows, and agricultural practices with the use of pesticides, although this is increasingly controlled. At the same time mild winters and poor summers can impact on successful mating. There are also a number of diseases and pests. The latter includes the Varroa Mite who feeds on the young bees and the Asian hornet, a voracious predator who must be reported and destroyed.

And, of course, the labelling of honey products is not always correct. Honey is the world's third most adulterated food. If people want Manuka rather than local honey, Wendy recommends Manuka honey from Holland and Barrett as the genuine article.

Barges on the Beck	8 th September	11:00 to 13:00	
		13:00 to 15:00	
	9 th September	11:00 to 13:00	
		13:00 to 15:00	
	10 th September	11:00 to 13:00	
		13:00 to 15:00	
Beverley Friary	9 th September	11:00 to 13:30	
		13:30 to 16:00	
	10 th September	11:00 to 13:30	
		13:30 to 16:00	
No.2 Highgate.	8 th September	10:00 to 12:30	
		12:30 to 15:00	
	9 th September	10:00 to 12:30	
		12:30 to 15:00	
Beverley Minster Secret Garden	8 th September	10:00 to 13:00	
		13:00 to 16:00	
	9 th September	10:00 to 13:00	
		13:00 to 16:00	
	10 th September	10:00 to 13:00	
		13:00 to 16:00	
Norwood House	8 th September	11:00 to 13:30	
		13:30 to 16:00	
Bishop Burton College Walled Garden	10 th September	11:00 to 13:30	
		13:30 to 16:00	

If you feel able to volunteer please indicate which venue and time. In most cases I will need 2 people each session and I will try to accommodate your requests. My e-mail is sandrabwilliams@btinternet.com

DISCLAIMER

The Beverley and District Civic Society assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions in the content of this Newsletter.