



# **Newsletter:**

**January 2023**

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



## **A Happy New Year to all our Members**



### **Chairman's Remarks**



#### **A New Year Dawns**

Let us hope for a better, less troubled year both nationally and internationally.

The Society's Executive wishes you a Happy New Year. It has a full programme of events with talks in your calendar on topics catering for varying interests from 'The Dogger Bank Wind Farm' to the 'National Garden Scheme', 'The Coronation of the First English King' and 'Slavery and the East Riding of Yorkshire', which we hope you will enjoy. The various Executive Groups continue to be busy as ever and are making representations on many important issues for the town, from Planning matters, Heritage Open Days, and Traffic, to Trees and Rights of Way. If you feel like making a New Year's resolution to contribute to helping on these, or in other ways, please do contact any Executive Committee member. You would be made most welcome.

*Dick Lidwell*

### **England Springs Bridleway Railway Crossing**

Many members may have been frustrated by the recent 'Emergency' closure on safety grounds, of the popular bridleway railway crossing at England Springs, at the request of Network Rail. This is at present a 'temporary order' for 21 days from 17<sup>th</sup> November, but it appears likely this will be extended to a six months closure, with the possibility of permanent closure.

To quote from The Society's correspondence with Network Rail justifying the present closure: *'A census camera was erected in September 2022 to check how the crossing was being used. When this footage was analysed, it showed that the level crossing was not being used correctly. Vulnerable users with either audible or visual impairments were identified as frequently using the level crossing, the nearby construction work was distracting users relying on sighting and also preventing approaching trains from being heard. England Springs level crossing requires users to be able to see and hear approaching trains, exacerbating both factors above. On top of these findings, there have been two recent incidents on-site, one non-suspicious fatality in October 2022 and a near miss in November 2022.'*

Clearly safety is a very important issue, and Network Rail has a policy to remove all unguarded/open crossings. In the light of this closure policy, we understand that ERYC and Network Rail had plans for a replacement bridge, but there is a second unguarded public footpath crossing further south, and in the plans for the housing developments currently being built there are proposals for a substantial bridge at that point to link the two housing estates. Finding finance for two bridges may prove problematic, but in the Society's view this should be secured to ensure these established public footpaths and bridleway remain permanently open for use.

Please note that permanent public rights of way diversion/closure orders are subject to a process of public consultation. It will be important that frustrated users and the Society are vigilant in monitoring the situation, and take action when necessary.

### **Champney Road Library, Registry Office, Customer Services & TIC**

Members may remember that major restructuring plans for the Library, Tourist Information Centre, the Registry Office, and Customer Services were consulted on in the autumn. A full planning application has now been published (ref: 22/03485/PLB and 22/03484/REG3).

The published plans appear to be very much the same as the consultation documents. The major proposals being:

- the Registry Office moving into the present reference library with associated offices and waiting area spaces and a new access to the rear garden;
- the Reference Library being relocated to the first floor;
- Customer Service will also move into the ground floor;
- the Tourist Information Centre would be relocated in the vestibule;
- a new activity room, some re-organisation of the Archive Office and Reading Room; and
- substantial design improvements to the Garden.

Comments should be submitted by 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to: [planning@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:planning@eastriding.gov.uk).

## A Choir of Angels



Both Beverley Minster and St Mary's church have carvings of angels all around, often shown as making music, playing or singing. And 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' is very important part of all our traditional carol services.

Belief in angels forms part of many of the world's great religious faiths, some of which are centuries older than Christianity: Zoroastrian, Judaic, Christian, Muslim. In our churches the belief and the angel images survived the waves of destruction by Protestants and Puritans attempting to obliterate the saints.

St Mary's has charming small angel carvings, almost unnoticed, in the 28 medieval choir stalls beneath the chancel ceiling of kings. Between each stall with its misericord below the seat there is a wooden divider, and in St Mary's each of these dividers is decorated with a small angel (you can see their wings) playing a variety of instruments (including a small harp, drums and perhaps a psalter), praying, preaching, or organising the choir. Four of the poppyheads, the vertical poles at the end of each range of stalls, also have or had once four angels carved at the head. The variety of images in misericords across Europe is well recorded, but angels in this place in choir stalls are very, very rare.



The history of St Mary's choir stalls is still a mystery. Early in the 1800s they stood in the chancel aisles. They were placed (or returned) to their present position by the Victorian restorer George Gilbert Scott, and extensively repaired by the Peterborough firm of Thompson & Ruddle

in 1875-6. The angels in the choir were not restored at that time and (with some wear and tear) are as they were carved, probably in the mid 1400s. That date comes from costumes and armour shown on the misericords – for who knows what a fashionable angel wore? The angels' musical instruments might help provide a confirmation of the approximate date.



Meanwhile, this Christmastide St Mary's has added to its medieval stone and wood angels the amazing archangels in the nave. Enormous, brightly coloured, they are powerful figures, a reminder that angels and archangels through the ages have brought world-changing messages to humans of many religions.

*Barbara English*

### [New Guide to St Mary's Church](#)

*A new guide to St Mary's church, written by Barbara, is now available. Costing £5.00 it is sure to enhance your enjoyment of our beautiful local church.*

# The Yorkshire Rebellion of 1820

*Mike Farrimond, our Society Treasurer, shares some fascinating family history. If you have a story of family history set in our area , please share with us in 2023.*

The lives of many, especially in the North and Midlands, were transformed by the rapid progress of the Industrial Revolution after 1770. England was turned into the 'workshop of the world' by new technologies like steam power, improved transport networks and enterprising men like the pottery manufacturer Josiah Wedgwood, and the cotton mill owner Richard Arkwright. Key to the success of many industries were the new manufactories – or factories – employing hundreds of workers, including many women and children. The victory at Waterloo in June 1815 ended almost 22 years of war, and expectations were high that peace would bring great prosperity. Instead, the economy went into a boom-and-bust cycle that caused enormous hardship, especially in 1816-1817 and in 1819. In some trades, such as handloom weaving, important in Lancashire and Yorkshire, real wages fell dramatically.

The weaver, who often worked 15 hours a day, saw himself as a hardworking, disenfranchised man 'employed' via the putting-out system by a manufacturer who was wealthy, and often also his landlord. If the manufacturer owned the weaver's loom as well, the weaver had to pay him two rents. In the compact urban towns like Barnsley and Huddersfield, this situation created tensions and alienated workers, especially those in the putting-out textile trades.

From 1816, Union Societies (which were not trade unions) were founded in many parts of Britain, especially in the growing industrial towns. The Barnsley Union Society's declared objectives were to encourage the reading of political pamphlets and newspapers as part of an educational drive, and to organize public meetings to agitate for parliamentary reform. The Society, which was otherwise known as the 'Penny Club', charged a subscription of a penny, per head, per week. The money was used to purchase radical literature which was read aloud by a literate member followed by a discussion on the issues arising. From November 1819 the radicals began to meet twice a week: once to read their journals and participate in political debates, and on the second occasion to undergo military training on open fields outside the town.

The government's response to the events of Peterloo, where 15 people were killed when cavalry charged into a crowd of around 60,000 people, came in the form of the so-called Six Acts in 1819. These Acts curtailed public demonstrations, prevented citizens from drilling with weapons, allowed magistrates to search houses without warrants, and clamped down on the radical press. For many in the Union Societies the conclusion was obvious: the events at Peterloo and the Six Acts were ushering in an era of despotism.

Union Society members were more literate than the general population, and they were also respected men within their own communities, often married and employed. Several members of the Barnsley Union Society belonged to a radical religious sect, the Kilhamite New Connexion Methodists where Thomas Farrimond, the Union Society secretary, had demonstrated some oratorical skills. At a public meeting in July 1819, he resolved

*"The sole design of forming civil government was for promoting the welfare and happiness of the body politic, and whatever authority any man possesses is derived from the community at large; consequently, if any government cease to answer the purpose for which it was appointed, or violate the rights of those who are governed, those from whom their power is derived have a national right to call their governors to account."*

Unrest was festering in other towns too. Huddersfield (population about 13,000 at that time) was an important town and handloom weaving was experiencing great economic hardship at the beginning of 1820. After elaborate planning, the region's radical clubs decided to attack the lightly-defended town of Huddersfield on 1 April 1820. Within hours men were on the march, accompanied by the sound of assembly bugles and the firing of signal rockets. About 2,000 men marched to four assembly points around Huddersfield, including a 'fifth column' of a few hundred within Huddersfield itself. The military intervened without any shots being fired and four leading Huddersfield radicals were arrested and tried. Two were transported to Tasmania, and two were pardoned after serving two years' incarceration in the hulks (old ships moored in estuaries which served as prisons).

Meanwhile, in Barnsley (population about 8,200) where linen weaving was the main occupation, employing about half the men in the area, the Union Society had around 600 members. The committee of the Society met weekly at the house of Thomas Farrimond, a 56-year-old weaver and part-time barber originally from Wigan, who had been involved in political agitations in Barnsley in 1817 and 1819. All the committee members were weavers, and three were from Wigan, another traditional linen-weaving area.

On 12 April the Union Society received word that there was to be a second attempt to capture Huddersfield, and the Barnsley radicals were convinced to join the insurrection. They agreed to march to Grange Moor, equidistant between Barnsley, Huddersfield and Wakefield, where they believed that thousands of armed men would converge from different towns and villages, including Huddersfield. The men of Barnsley assembled late in the evening, met with contingents from other villages *en route* and marched towards Huddersfield. The 400 marchers were led by two local weavers and they waved flags with political slogans, and carried pikes and guns. They arrived at Grange Moor in the early hours, where to their great surprise and disappointment they were met by only 20 radicals from Huddersfield rather than the thousands they had expected, and by a small militia contingent.

Panic set in and men fled leaving behind their banners and weapons. No military engagement took place, and the troops sent to confront the insurgents simply arrested 17 marchers and collected weapons. The Grange Moor uprising had turned out to be a failure. Other Yorkshire radicals did not come out in force to support the Barnsley men, and the anticipated support from Lancashire radicals never materialised.

While the Barnsley men were marching towards Grange Moor, a simultaneous event took place in Sheffield where about 200 armed men assembled and marched to the Haymarket. Then, for some reason, the crowd dispersed. The next day, only the leader was arrested. A similar uprising took place in the first week of April 1820, when some 300 armed men assembled on Aspul Moor near Wigan, in the belief that "there would be a general rising in twelve counties if Wigan begun it." The rising was called off because of lack of support, and the authorities arrested a few weavers.

The courts were not particularly vindictive in dealing with the marchers, and In September 1820 they reached an agreement with 29 Yorkshire rebels that a common plea of guilty would save them from the death sentence. A similar bargain was struck with Thomas Farrimond, who was captured later in 1821 and tried in York. Death penalties were pronounced by a judge wearing a black hood, and these were later commuted to transportation to the Australian penal colonies or, in some cases, pardons after a period of detention in the hulks.

The uprisings came to naught and as one Yorkshire radical put it, somewhat cryptically, "...our Musick in Yorkshire 'as played twice where yours in Lankshire has never struck at all. Is your Musicians sick?"

*Michael Farrimond 7-12-2022*

## The Restoration of the Wall and Pillars at the Bar House

Members walking through the Bar on to the Westwood, or up into North Bar Without, may have noticed the start of works on the garden wall of Bar House facing the *Rose and Crown*. The pillars made of stone and brick, and the stone balls on the tops were in need of some restoration; around the time of the roadworks on York Road, the ball on one of the pillars became dislodged and dangerous. This has now been made safe and a careful and accurate restoration programme has commenced which will take some time to complete.

These walls and pillars have quite a history as can be seen from the illustration below, taken from the Guildhall's recent exhibition 'Lost Streams, Pumps and, Privies'. This shows the Walker Beck passing Bar House creating the Bar Dike, also known as Cuckstoolpit, which tradition has it was the site of the ducking stool! The wall, pillars and balls of Bar House can clearly be seen.

Around 1860 the western pedestrian archway through the North Bar was created, and in compensation the garden of Bar House was extended with the pool being filled in. The current wall with its pillars dates from that time, but recent works have shown that some of the material used then was recycled stone. Where the stone came from one can only guess, but it shows that recycling is not a just modern preoccupation. Indeed such practice was widespread throughout earlier times. Remember the dissolution of the Monasteries? When works were undertaken in the Minster during the nineteenth century, some of the removed materials have been reused elsewhere in the town.



Courtesy of ERYMS reproduced from an original by Pat Deans

The Master mason carrying out the works is Andrew Gomersal, Beverley Minster's stone mason, where his works have included restoring pinnacles and carvings. He has also worked on many other minsters including Hull and Selby. In addition he has worked elsewhere in the town, including creating the new stone base for the restored Victorian pump in North Bar Within. See:

<https://www.masterstonemason.co.uk/>



Picture of ball after roadworks and before restoration with minimum intervention as required by the conservation officer.



The restored pillar top



The repositioned ball

## Beverley WI Lime Tree



The EYRC Tree fund grant has paid for a lime tree for the Beverley WI. The photos show the tree being planted by Rosemary Dyason, the president of Beverley WI.



# Brewing and the beginning of Biochemistry

An illustrated talk by Clive La Pensée

Our Civic society lecture on 8<sup>th</sup> December came with an extra flourish as Clive La Pensée shared some fascinating insights into the world of brewing, with some appropriate samples along the way .

The history of brewing is a little mysterious since, at its inception, it appears to have been women's work, and most of those involved were illiterate and so provide little specific information regarding the nature of early brewing.

It does appear, however, that the first beer was brewed in at least 5000 BC in Mesopotamia (Iran) and was recorded in the written history of Ancient Egypt. Tablets have been discovered showing beer receipts and villagers apparently drinking beer with straws.

It was discovered, presumably by chance, that soaking grains of barley caused germination. A white leaf inside the kernel will result, called the acrospire. When the acrospire is about the 2/3 length as the kernel you have produced green malt. This green malt is dried very slowly over 1-2 days at temperatures between 30-35C. Now the malted barley is ready to create beer. It is crushed and soaked in hot water to produce a mash. The water extracted during the mashing process is called wort, which when fermented with brewing yeast produces alcohol. Originally these beers had to be drunk straight after the fermentation process but now, with technology to keep air out, beers can be kept for longer.

In Beverley a malt house appears to have been positioned north of the current railway station. Milling would have taken place on the Westwood and then brewed in a number of locations in the town. Like most towns and indeed small villages in England, there were numerous local brewers until the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century. Most large houses had their own brew houses as described in Pamela Sambrooke's publication 'Country House Brewing in England 1500-1900'.

Until the late 16<sup>th</sup> century in Britain, gruits - combinations of different herbs - were used to flavour beer and to produce different effects. Some had medicinal qualities, others acted as a narcotic. In the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries these were increasingly replaced with hops. These provided flavour and disinfected the beer. The famous Oast houses of Kent are a reminder of where the hops were originally dried. Most hops are now dried industrially.



Hallertauer hop plant

The yeast used in the brewing process has a discernable impact on the flavour of beer produced. Continental lager uses a yeast requiring a lower temperature for long, slow fermentation and produce a 'clean' taste. In the UK this taste is absent because the yeast used requires a higher temperature for fermentation. Beers are lower in gas and higher in alcohol content.

The strength of German Bockbier was illustrated by the story of Goethe, foolishly proposing to a young lady, Ulrike Von Levetzov, 55 years his junior after imbibing a little too much. Needless to say, he was refused.

The road to factory brewing began with the replacement of gruits with hops. At the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Britain began the production of porter, or brown beer. Made with brown malt it didn't earn its



name because it was popular with porters. It was drunk across social classes. It was a forgiving beer and made in large quantities. Because it could be brewed in warm weather it was particularly popular with the navy.

The invention of the thermometer and the hydrometer led to the demise of brown beers in favour of pale beers. These had higher alcohol rates and were cheaper to produce. The arrival of the canals and later railways, and the Empire allowed London to become the central hub of beer production, and it was exported throughout the world. It was during this time that Louis Pasteur visited breweries in London and Edinburgh bringing with him the microscope which made brewing 'scientific'.

During the two world wars the quality of beers inevitably declined. Shortages of grain and consequent restrictions led to a far less alcoholic product and it was not until the 1970s when the craft beer revival began.

The audience were then invited to sample a homemade beer which had been fermenting for the amount of time it would have taken for a beer to have been exported from Beverley in 19<sup>th</sup> century, to reach Bombay.



*For your Diary*



## **Maintaining the Full International School Award at Molescroft Primary School**

**An illustrated talk by Michael Loncaster**



**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 7.30pm  
at St Mary's Church, Beverley**

### **Disclaimer**

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