

# Beverley and District Civic Society

## NEWSLETTER

### WINTER 2018

**The Executive Committee of the Beverley & District Civic Society  
For the quarter ending 30th November 2018, here is a summary of some  
of the matters discussed by your Executive Committee**

Jim and Marlene Godfrey, members of our Civic Society, came to an Executive Committee Meeting to talk about the Beverley Art Gallery. Jim is chairman of the Friends of the Beverley Art Gallery. The ERYC owns the Gallery, funds and staffs it as required, and has plans to extend the Gallery Display area.

The History Boards subcommittee was considering where best to place additions to these Boards. The ERYC has an input into where these boards should be placed in the town.

Eva la Pensee and Neil Harris have become members of The Executive Committee following October's AGM.

The Tourist Information Centre (TIC) premises that were in Butcher Row have been closed and your Executive Committee has asked the ERYC about this decision and queried how tourist information will be given to visitors to the town in the future.

Heritage Open Days (HOD) occurred on 7th and 8th September in Beverley. We were assisted at different venues in the town by volunteers who had previously helped during the City of Culture event in 2017. Twelve famous women of Beverley and District had featured in talks during the HOD. The Executive Committee will fund the printing and binding of these talks.

Mary Wollstonecraft had lived in Beverley as a child and young woman and a plaque was unveiled in Highgate by the Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding to commemorate her.

The Elwell reproductions placed around Beverley have been cleaned and had their frames repainted. We are looking to find 5 new sites for 5 new reproductions to be sited.

A planning application has been made to restore the Victorian water pump in North Bar Within. The works would include restoring the missing spout and handle, and a total refurbishment of this listed landmark; an expensive job for which funding is being sought.

Sandy Patience, our chairman, has resigned that office and also his place on the Society's Executive Committee. He has contributed over many years.

Coronation Gardens have been a focus of interest for the Executive Committee and the ERYC's Commuted Sums has contributed in giving sums to help. Rosemary Major has put much energy and time into this project.

Membership of the Beverley & District Civic Society has now reached 222.

Gerald O'Callaghan, Minute Secretary

### **Parking on Westwood**

On this matter I have had a long running correspondence going back to 2013 with Pasture Masters, councillors, police and ERYC. Everybody passes the buck. The Pasture Masters have long had boards on the edges of Westwood proclaiming that anyone flouting the 4 hour maximum stay will be prosecuted under byelaw 27.5 which states "Parking on any part of the Common Pastures is restricted to 4 hours in any period of 24 hours and no return shall be permitted within that period", and warning that offenders will be prosecuted. So far as I can ascertain this never happened, and when I wrote to the Secretary to the Pasture Masters asking when there was last a prosecution under the byelaw I received no reply. Nothing brings a law into more disrepute than when a warning is issued and then not acted upon (as a former teacher I can vouch for the truth of this).

Members may have seen that at long last some action, albeit temporary, is being taken to prevent all day parking above Westwood Road. Sometime during January wooden posts are to be installed on the pasture edges above Westwood Road in order to prevent further degradation of the verges, and will stay until the grass recovers which, it has been said, could take up to two years. A hope has been expressed that the Pasture Masters will forget to take the posts away.

Neil King

### **Civic Society Meeting Report on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at St. Mary's Church Hall**

#### **King Charles 1<sup>ST</sup> and Beverley**

An unprecedented number of people attended an excellent lecture by Professor Barbara English on the visits to Beverley by Charles 1<sup>st</sup> in the early stages of the Civil War. He had travelled north in the hope of raising troops, as well as obtaining weapons, to use against the Parliamentarian forces in the south. His initial stay on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1642 was connected with his repeated attempts to gain access to his armoury in Hull. However, his efforts were thwarted by the Governor, Sir John Hotham, who refused him entry. This failure would contribute to the loss of the Battle of Edgehill.

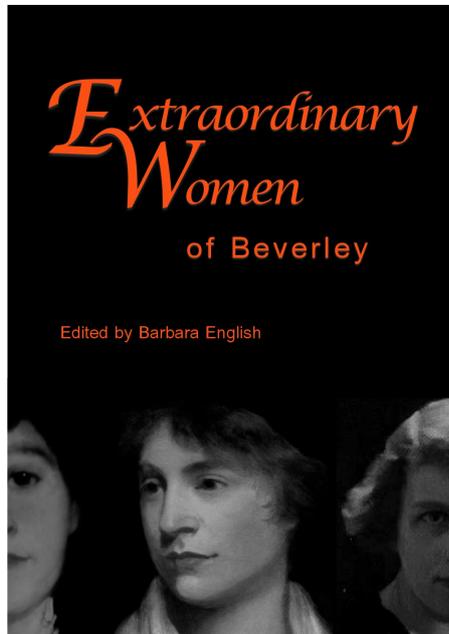


Charles I in Three Positions (the Triple Portrait of Charles I) by Van Dyck, 1635 or 1636, Royal Collection

Charles returned in July accompanied by his sons, Charles and James, together with members of his Court, to use Beverley as a base from which to recruit more supporters, also to continue to try to break into Hull. They were accommodated by Lady Gee who owned three houses, two with tenants and one larger house which was probably her own. It is likely that this one was used by the Royal family. Its site is not yet identified, but it was possibly an earlier large house on the site of the present St Mary's Manor. They attended church services and efforts were made to entertain them, "which kept them from being quickly weary". Charles travelled out on recruitment expeditions first to Doncaster, Newark and Lincoln, returning to Beverley briefly, before sallying forth to Nottingham, Leicester and Doncaster. He then moved from Beverley to York on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

Local opinion may not always have been favourable to him. He tore up a local news sheet carrying a report which displeased him. Later in the Civil War there would be fighting on Westwood between Royalist and Roundhead supporters, evidence of which would later be confirmed by the discovery of bullets and musket balls of the period. At the King's Trial in January 1649, the first charge laid against him by a witness came from William Cuthbert, who had been living at Hull Bridge in July 1642. He had been aware that about 300 foot soldiers were raised for the King's Guard under Sir Robert Strickland. They broke into Cuthbert's house at midnight, taking it over and throwing him out. Forced entry at such an hour was regarded as particularly serious. Charles was condemned on the 27<sup>th</sup> and executed on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1649.

Rosemary Major



### **The Extraordinary Women end the year in style**

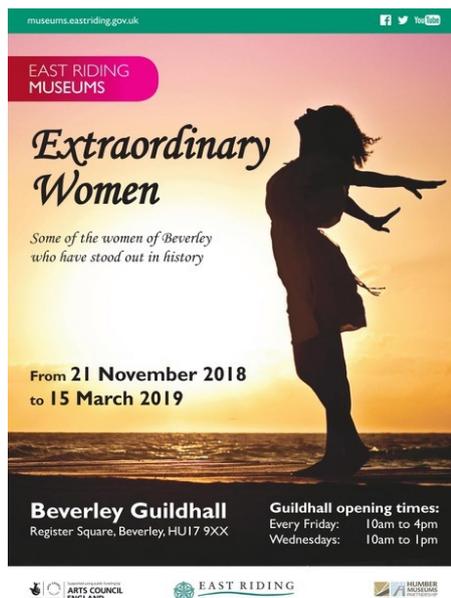
Beverley Guildhall has joined other celebrations of Extraordinary Women up and down the country with a very interesting exhibition at the Guildhall. Do visit it (free admittance). Guildhall staff and volunteers have collected the stories of Beverley women from the town's past and a series of themed panels demonstrate in how many different areas women were successful (even in crime). The panels are lavishly illustrated, and in addition there is a video display of paintings, a show case including art, interesting objects from Nellie's in Hengate and a charming picture by Mary Elwell, called *The Landing, A Grey Day*. There is much here to add to the Civic Society's use of the Extraordinary Women theme during Heritage Open Days of 2018 (which was chosen to celebrate Women's Suffrage in 1918).

The exhibition opened in late November 2018, and runs until 15 March 2019. The Guildhall, in Register Square, is open on Wednesday mornings, 10 – 1, and on Fridays, 10 – 4, except for the days between Christmas and New Year.

Meanwhile, during September 2018, your Civic Society celebrated the town's remarkable women by putting up a new plaque to Mary Wollstonecraft on no.2 Highgate, by projecting her image by the street artist Stewy on the façade of the Beverley Arms, by included sections on twelve chosen women in the Heritage Open Day programmes locally and nationally, and by holding a day of talks on the Twelve Women chaired by Margaret Pinder. Their lives and works, from St Hilda of Whitby, saint and teacher (born 614) to Pat Albeck, designer (died 2018) were described by different speakers with specialist

knowledge. A hundred tickets for the talks went almost at once, and many people asked for a repeat – this was unfortunately not practicable, as the speakers had come from as far away as Sweden, Glasgow and Cornwall (the last being perhaps the slowest journey). We decided therefore to put the talks together in a small book, similar to those recently published by the Civic Society, *Beverley Pastures and Cabbages & Kings: a history of Saturday Market*. The cover is shown here and the new publication is well under way. Please look out for it in the very near future.

Barbara English



### **Call-Me-Risley, Henry the Magnificent, Michelangelo, and Beverley Minster**

Fans of Dame Hilary Mantel's works on Thomas Cromwell (so far, *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies*) may remember the character at court whom Cromwell constantly mocks as Thomas 'Call-Me-Risley'. The real-life courtier was born Writhe, a name he may have thought was a handicap in the fiercely ambitious group surrounding Henry VIII. He renamed himself (and his ancestors) Wriothesley, which happened to be the surname of the earls of Southampton, and the Southamptons pronounced this 'Risley' – part of being an English aristocrat is to have a name that only the in-crowd knows how to pronounce (Cholmondeley, Leveson-Gower, Beauchamp, Berkeley, Featherstonehaugh). When he stopped being Tom Writhe, Thomas had to tell everyone on every occasion 'I AM CALLED RISLEY'.

Thomas Wriothesley prospered and became Sir Thomas, and Garter King of Arms, chief of the heralds. One of his Garter jobs was to check the grandest

aristocratic funerals, and make sure that funeral processions and tombs carried the correct heraldry. This brought him in contact with the funeral and tomb of Henry Percy, 5th earl of Northumberland, whose magnificent tomb in Beverley Minster has completely disappeared – without trace, we thought, until in 2016 a drawing of the tomb, made by Sir Thomas Wriothesley's office, was found (wrongly catalogued) in the British Library, and published by John Phillips in his splendidly illustrated book on Beverley Minster, 'Of a fair uniforme Making' (2017) p.242.



The 5th earl died in 1527 and his image, lying beside his wife and holding her hand, once glowed in splendour at the east end of the Minster. Certain details of the tomb are Renaissance motifs, derived from classical decorations. We know that Wriothesley had business dealings with the Florentine Pietro Torrigiano. Torrigiano is said to have brought Renaissance art into England, and he designed the Westminster tombs of Henry VII, his queen, and Henry's mother Lady Margaret Beaufort (for which tomb Wriothesley provided the heraldic shields). Perhaps Torrigiano advised Wriothesley about the Percy tomb, and suggested the Renaissance touches.

And Torrigiano...he was the man whom Lorenzo de' Medici threw out of Florence, for breaking Michelangelo's nose, in a dispute about who was the best artist (and Torrigiano was very good, as the sculpture below of St John Fisher shows). Is Torrigiano a tentative but intriguing link between our missing Percy tomb and Michelangelo, the grandest sculptor of all?



Pietro Torrigiano, polychromed terracotta sculpture (1510-1515) of Beverley-born St John Fisher

Metropolitan Museum, New York

### **Membership**

Members are reminded that yearly subscriptions were due in October 2018, and must be received by February if names are not to be removed from the membership list.

Wendy usher-bacon

Membership Secretary

### **Annual Dinner**

The annual dinner was held at Cerutti2 on the 26th October 2018, and as usual Tina's meal was delicious. Forty-nine members and guests attended and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. The Master Of Ceremonies was our Chairperson Michael Hildyard and Grace was said by Andrew Hancock. Our guest speaker was the Honourable Susan Cunliffe-Lister, the Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire, who gave an amusing and interesting talk about representing the Queen for the East Riding and carrying out many tasks that most people would not envisage.

Next year's dinner will be on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September, a month earlier than heretofore.

Wendy usher-bacon

Dinner Organiser

**Forthcoming meetings...**  
**... which will be in St Mary's Parish Hall,**  
**and all meetings will commence at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

Rick Bailey, CEO of Thwaites  
*The Restoration of the Beverley Arms*

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

Colin & Fleur Speakman  
*Wandering Round the Wolds*

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

Dr John Boughton  
*Municipal Dreams – a History of Council Housing in Beverley*

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Steven Stockton of Tennants  
*The Ever-changing Auction World*

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**Please send material by email if possible: this saves re-typing.**

However, if you do not use email all contributions and letters, no matter how brief, are welcome.

**The deadline** for copy to be included in the Spring 2019 Newsletter is  
**Thursday 28th February 2019**

**Please note this date in your diary if you are likely to contribute**

**Quarterly deadlines are always the last days of February, May, August and September, unless advance notice is given otherwise – which may sometimes be the case with in August given changing holiday dates.**



Affiliated to Civic Voice and Yorkshire and Humberside Association of Civic Societies  
[www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk](http://www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk)