

Newsletter:

October 2026

<https://www.beverleycivicsociety.com/>

**BEVERLEY
CIVIC
SOCIETY**

Founded 1961

Chairman's Remarks

Progress....



Photos courtesy *Dick Lidwell*

Patience... and we'll get there!

Works in progress at last on the improvements to the Weel Bridge and cleaning out the Station Conveniences (note lorry) as part of the repairs.

Heritage Open Days

Thanks to the hard work of Michael Farrimond, Sandra Williams, and Kloskk Tyrer, our Heritage Open Days' programme was a great success, with once again large numbers visiting the locations. Our thanks go also to all those individuals and organisations who opened their premises.

A Significant Birthday!

This year is the 60th birthday for *Guest and Philips*; a real Beverley establishment.

The founder, Michael Philips, was a member of the Civic Society Executive for many years, and the family remain supporters. Philip and Karen Guest kindly hosted a Society visit a few years ago to their wonderful historic home at Everingham Park.



Photo courtesy *Dick Lidwell*

The shop building itself had a long history as the 'White Swan' Inn, hence the model White Swan sign on the façade. Apparently the Swan sign in situ is a replacement from sometime after 1939 when it was described in 'The Rambler' as '*...this beautiful bird, round whose neck is decked a golden crown or chain, a mark of a first-class house of entertainment*' (source www.closedpubs.co.uk) See this early photograph of the Inn....

...and indeed see also this Society plaque on its much earlier history, positioned on the left hand front door jamb of the shop.

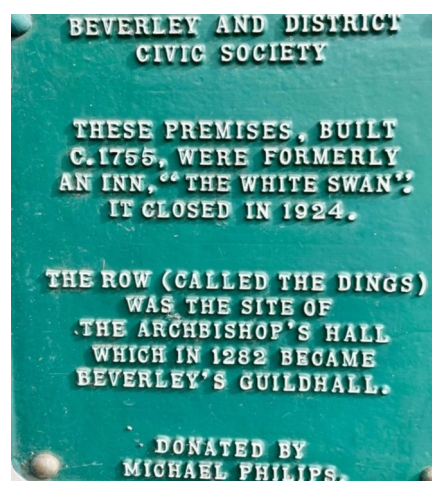


Photo courtesy Dick Lidwell



Photo courtesy Philip Guest and Dick Lidwell

The 100 Club

I hope you have received the email concerning the launch of the Society's 100 Club, designed to provide the Society with an additional income stream, to help fund our increasing number of activities aimed at meeting our objective of 'stimulating civic pride in the beauty, history and character of Beverley and its surroundings'. Should you have any questions please do send an email to: 100club@beverleycivicsociety.com.

Finally

Please note that this year's AGM is to take place, as advertised on your membership card, on Thursday 15th October at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, with an opportunity after the formalities to mingle socially with members over nibbles and liquid refreshment.

Dick Lidwell

IMPORTANT NOTICE



In the September Newsletter, the date of the AGM was given as the 8th October. This was an error as St Mary's Church has a pre-booked event at this time. **The date of the AGM is the 15th October** as noted on the Talks Card. Apologies for any confusion that may have resulted. We look forward to seeing you at 7.30 on Thursday 15th October for the AGM and drinks afterwards.

Beverley Civic Society 100 CLUB

The Beverley Civic Society 100 Club is now live

Membership of the new Beverley Civic Society 100 Club is now open.

Members should have received recently an email containing the full 100 Club Information Pack and Joining Form.

The 100 Club is being launched to provide the Society with an additional, dependable source of regular income to support our work to preserve and enhance Beverley's heritage, character and public realm. Each draw number costs £5 per month, with approximately 50% of the money raised returned as prizes, and 50% supporting the work of Beverley Civic Society.

Our inaugural draw will take place on Thursday 12 November, at the Margaret Powell Lecture at St Mary's Church.

Become a Founding Member

Everyone whose first payment is received in time for our inaugural draw will be recognised as a Founding Member of the Beverley Civic Society 100 Club.

To take part in the first draw in November, we need to have received your completed Joining Form and first payment by 31 October. So, if you are intending to join from the start, please act now to give us time to allocate your draw number(s), issue your unique payment reference, and allow you to arrange your monthly Standing Order before the deadline.

You can have more than one draw number, increasing both your potential chances of winning and your support for the Society.

Don't miss the opportunity to become one of our Founding Members.

If you haven't received your 100 Club Information Pack and Joining Form, or have any questions about joining, please email 100club@beverleycivicsociety.com.



Town and Planning Matters

The Yorkshire Bank building

This sadly long neglected building in Saturday Market is being redeveloped by Barclays Bank.

The National Westminster Bank (also Saturday Market)

An application has been made to convert this substantial former bank premises (it fronts onto Saturday Market, Old Waste and Lairgate) into a leisure establishment by Loungers Ltd: see application **26/02078/PLF**.

McCarthy and Stone, Langholm Close; 26/01713/VAR

A multiple application including a proposal to allow for the minimum age restriction for one occupant to be lowered, from 70 to 60 years of age. Concern has been expressed that this could alter the previously contractual environment for present residents, and increase the vehicular movements in Langholm Close.

Beverley Friary

The East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the owners, have invited applications of interest by midday on the 28th October to purchase or lease this historic Grade II* property. Members will be aware that it has been empty since the YHA ceased operating it as a youth hostel a few years ago. The Society is keen to see that a use sensitive to its history and wall paintings is found for the Friary. For full sale details please see:

https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/business/find-your-nearest-property-for-sale-or-rent/for-sale-or-rent-listing/?entry=beverley_friary

Dick Lidwell



Civic Society Subscriptions

Civic Society subs are now due. Can we remind you that subscription is still the bargain price of £20.00. We thank those members who have already renewed their subscription.

May we remind members that bank charges are now in place when cheques are processed and so the preferred method of payments are as follows

- 1 - Standing order
- 2 - BACS transfer via web banking app
- 3 - By debit or credit card using SumUp at a monthly meeting
- 4 - Cash at a monthly meeting
- 5 - Cheque

If you would like to pay at the next monthly meeting, this will be at the AGM on 15th October in St Mary's Church.

HODs 2026 Another fantastic Year

2026 was another successful year for Heritage Open Days with 8000 brochures distributed across East Riding to libraries, museums, churches and cafes and many visitors to the locations in the town.

* We are grateful to Heritage and Civic Societies in Bridlington, Hornsea, Howden, Goole, Swanland and Cottingham for their contributions to HODs and to the East Yorkshire brochure.

* We are fortunate to have Peter Stevens as an active Executive Committee member and he did much to promote HODs activities on Facebook (watch for future items on our Facebook).

* Twenty-two Society members and their friends helped HODs by acting as stewards at many of our venues, some completing more than one shift.

* The Friary welcomed 400 visitors in two days with many commenting "I have often walked past the Friary over the years and this is my first visit; it's wonderful to be able to see around it".

* Ian Richardson led a successful walk around the town, pointing out buildings which were former public houses. In the past his walks were constrained to 20 participants, but this year 40 visitors joined the tour.



Photo courtesy Mike Farrimond

* 203 visitors to Cherry Corner, stimulated by the article by Alison Milner in the brochure. A lot of visitors read the whole story of the four women of the house, visiting each of four rooms in turn. The Etton village hall had 90 visitors.

* St Mary's had 443 visitors over two days, including 55 climbing the stairs to the Priest room, and taking in the great views from the top of the tower.

* 900 visitors to the Secret Garden - maybe not so secret anymore following all the visits in the past few years.



Photos courtesy Lesley Blucke

* Six knowledgeable organisers from our venues were interviewed on Beverley FM on 10 September, the day before the HODs Festival started. Each had a ten-minute interview to explain about HODs and their venue in particular. We've already been asked to repeat the arrangement for 2027.

* The 200 visitors to Barges on the Beck were entertained by the Hornsea Shanty Lassies and Sunshine Strummers Ukele Band.



Photo courtesy Sandra Williams

* Once again the Old Savings Bank on Lairgate proved very popular, with many visitors without a booking joining the queue outside hoping to be let in by Richard Stott, who didn't turn anyone away.

* Toll Gavel church reported that they had been "very busy"

* Both tours of the Minster which described the work of Friends of the Minster and reconstruction of parts of the Minster in the 1720s, were well attended.

* Bostonair did a great job at Norwood House where they had lots of information about the building on display and videos of High School classes when the building was used as a school.



Photo courtesy Mike Farrimond

* Tours around the WW2 anti-aircraft batteries at Butt Farm were fully subscribed.

Heritage Open Days is only successful because of the willing participation of venues and the enthusiasm of our volunteers. There are many who deserve thanks and I apologise for any omissions

Mike Farrimond and Sandra Williams

A message from Beverley in Bloom

We are bulb planting again! Thanks to funding by Tesco's blue token community program, this year's projects include the two large central verges on Manor Road, in front of the Manor Road Health Centre, and the verge on Wylies Road opposite the Conservative Club.

If you are able to join us, we would be extremely grateful. It would be helpful if you could bring a trowel and a kneeling mat for the planting. The site will be cordoned off with safety tape, well over a metre away from the carriageways.

The bulb planting day commences from 10am Thursday 22nd October, but any help with the turf cutting the day before would be greatly appreciated too.

For any more information please contact Dave Plaistowe 07768 877810.



Photos taken last year by *Dave Plaistowe*



For your Diary



7th October 2026 – 7.30pm

Cottingham Local History Society
Hull, Yorkshire's Maritime City, the inland waterways dimensions
Robb Robinson
Civic Hall, Market Green

12th October 2026 – 7.30pm

Hull Civic Society
The Avenues Illustrated, a pictorial history
David Alexander Smith
Holiday Inn Express, Ferensway

15th October 2026 – 7.15pm

Hessle Local History Society
Highwaymen
Alan Beadle
Hessle Town Hall

15th October 2026 – 7.00pm

Hull and East Riding History Association
A schoolmaster abroad in the land
Ian Wolesley
Hull University Library

16th October 2026 – 2.00pm

Barton Civic Society
Revolution and Resilience in Lincolnshire: Rex Russell's Life in Teaching
Joseph Wright Hall, Queen's Street

21st October 2026 – 2.00pm

Hull Civic Society
A visit to the Hull Seafarers Centre and a tour of the docks by mini bus
Tim Linkens, Chaplain to the Humber Ports
Meet at the Seafarers centre (Stella Maris) United House, West King George Dock

The following information is reproduced from the HEY History Calendar FaceBook page, by kind permission of Carol Osgerby, developer of the site. Each month we will attempt to include entries from her website which have relevance to Beverley and the surrounding areas.

1st October 1646, Sir Henry Griffith of Burton Agnes was fined £7,547 as a Colonel in the Royalist army (a delinquent) in order to recover his goods which had been sequestered by Parliament. His fine was reduced in 1650 to £5,122.

2nd October 1738, Dick Turpin, alias John Palmer, was arrested for breach of the peace, shooting a gamecock in Brough and threatening to shoot a man. He was held in Beverley, where the JPs committed him to trial at York. It was believed that while living in East Yorkshire posing as a horse dealer, he took frequent trips

to Lincolnshire to steal horses. He was hanged in York 7th April 1739.

3rd October 1821, Dr Raffles preached to 600 people on board the *Valiant* in Queen's Dock, Hull, a new floating chapel bought by The Port of Hull Society for the Religious Instruction of Seamen. It was used for 28 years until the vessel was leaking and abandoned in 1850.

4th October 1253, heavy flooding in Holderness resulted from a dry year and heavy rain. The River Hull changed its course.

5th October 1801, the residents and business people of Pocklington resolved, at a meeting in the Black Bull Inn, to create a canal to serve the town. The war with the French may have delayed matters, as it was 14 years before a Bill was presented to Parliament and passed.

6th October 1515, the Sheriff of Hull, Mr Mattison and 200 citizens fought the monks of Haltemprice Priory and threatened to pull down the monastery, over a dispute concerning jurisdiction over Wolfreton and Willerby, and fresh water supplies. Peace was restored by the Mayor of Hull, George Mattison and the issue was eventually resolved in the Star Chamber. One of many incidents in Hull's 'water wars'.

7th October 1846, the York & North Midland Railway opened the line from Hull to Beverley; on 1st May 1865 the line from York was extended south from Market Weighton.

8th October 1536, Beverley men mustered on Westwood Low Green in response to the Lincolnshire rebellion against the Act of Dissolution. Elizabeth Stapleton encouraged them, despite the reluctance of her husband, and her brother-in-law William Stapleton became the rebels' captain.

9th October 1953, Fred Elwell was made an honorary freeman of Beverley for his contribution to art. Several of his works are in Beverley Treasure House.

10th October 1536, a large crowd of armed men from Holderness supporting the Pilgrimage of Grace met on Beverley Westwood and Sutton Ings and chose captains.

11th October 1782, Rev George Lambert described Hull Fair as 'A season for the amusement of children and the gratification of gluttony'.

12th October 1767, Beverley gentleman John Courtney reported in his diary seeing a firework display for the first time, in the Market Place, paid for by subscription.

13th October 1815, William Bradley, the Yorkshire Giant, printed handbills inviting visitors to see him at 15 Queen Street, Hull during Hull Fair for a shilling.

14th October 1654, Elizabeth Roberts of Beverley was charged with witchcraft at York Castle, for attacking John Greycliffe in the forms of a cat and a bee. She seems to have avoided the gallows.

15th October 1536, Hull besieged by troops of local men, from of Holderness, Cottingham, Beverley and Hullshire supporting the Pilgrimage of Grace. William Stapleton reported he had trouble restraining the Beverley men under his command from setting fire to shipping in Hull haven. He sentenced 2 'unmanageable' followers to death, but reprieved both after inflicting one with the punishment of being towed behind a boat by a rope attached to his waist.

16th October 1312, John de Sutton of Sutton-on-Hull was listed with other followers of the Earl of Lancaster as pardoned for his part in the death of Piers Gaveston, King Edward II's favourite and Lord of Holderness.

17th October 1285, Richard son of Walter le Pessonier, clerk, while sick and delirious in the hospital in Beverley, killed Brother Walter, his 'dear master'; the jury declared death by misadventure, and imprisoned Richard indefinitely.

18th October it was the tradition, on St Luke's Day, to appoint an official dog-whipper to keep dogs out of church, and to whip any dogs found in the streets; the tradition is said to have begun when a dog ate a consecrated wafer in York Minster.

19th October 1469, John Fisher was born in Beverley, the eldest son of Robert and Agnes Fisher. Chancellor of Cambridge University, Bishop of Rochester, and chaplain to royalty. He was executed for treason 22nd June 1535 on Tower Hill, for speaking out against Henry VIII's divorce, and refusing to acknowledge the heirs of Henry and Ann Boleyn as legitimate successors to the throne. A Catholic martyr, he was canonized as St John Fisher.

20th October 1586, Luke Fox (or Foxe) was born in Hull. He explored much of the Hudson Bay in search of the Northwest Passage. Later became a brother of Hull Trinity House and in 1635 published 'North-west Fox, or Fox from the Northwest Passage'.

21st October 1823, Mr Gleadow, commander of the customs cutter *Bee*, seized 31,324 barrels of contraband, including 250 lbs of tea, 720 lbs of tobacco, and 976 gallons of spirits, mostly gin, from the Lunatic asylum, Brandesburton Moor.

22nd October 1517, John Cook, yeoman of Sewerby, claimed sanctuary after assaulting labourer Thomas Stowpes and fled to Flambrough church. This was not a registered place of sanctuary, but was called 'taking church'.

23rd October 1667, Richard Sterne, Archbishop of York, excommunicated a number of people, both male and female, at Beverley, and required them to make public penances, for crimes including adultery, fornication, and incest.

24th October 1530, at a Coroner's inquest in Hutton Cranswick over the body of William Aunderson, the jurors reported that John Adayll, a labourer from Driffield, had on 23.10.1530 around 4p.m. assaulted him, with precogitated malice, with an iron fork, killing him instantly. Adayll immediately fled, with the townspeople of Hutton Cranswick pursuing him from town to town, but he escaped to 'the privilege of Beverley'.

25th October 1037, Aelfric, Archbishop of York, placed the relics of the recently canonised St John of Beverley in a new shrine of gold and silver, ornamented with precious stones in the Collegiate Church of St John the Evangelist, Beverley.

26th October 1866, Lord Hotham officially opened the Sykes Monument, as a memorial to Sir Tatton Sykes (d 1863), the money being raised by subscription by local people. The monument is a local landmark, on Garton Hill, near Sledmere, and can be seen from many miles away.

27th October 1720, Ann Watson, nee Headon, of White House, Stoneferry, left her estate at Stoneferry for a hospital for widows or daughters of clergymen, old maids, and for a school. In Sutton she left 26s p.a. to distribute bread to the poor who attended divine service that day. She left several other bequests in different parishes; Ann Watson Street was later named after her.

28th October 1910, the Aldbrough Rocket Brigade rescued the crew of the trawler *Castor* of Grimsby, which ran aground on Aldbrough beach, whilst the Hornsea Lifeboat crew took an hour against high winds to row to the site. Later the Secretary of the Hornsea branch of the RNLI said that Hornsea did not have strong men like they had in Bridlington and it was the worst place on the coast to get a lifeboat.

29th October 1829, Rawcliffe merchant and eccentric Jemmy Hirst, died aged 91. He travelled in a wicker carriage, driven by sails or by his pet bull, Jupiter. Created a flying machine and other contraptions.

30th October 1472, an inquisition post mortem was called to verify the date of birth of Eleanor de Roos, of Brighton, daughter of Sir Robert Roos, in relation to inherited lands. George Layburn confirmed that she was born 55 years earlier, on 30th September, a date he remembered because on the day of her birth one John Forder, fisherman, at Bryghton, in the water of Derwent, netted a big fish, of great length, with a head like a dog's.

31st October 1929, George Jackson Bentham died suddenly, while boarding a train home, in the company of a young lady not his wife.



The Stamford Bridge Tapestry

Beverley Civic Society
Talk on Thursday
10 September 2026

Ann Chatham and Brian Foulton

Brian and Ann started their talk with an overview of the events of 1066 leading up to the Battle of Hastings later that year. This gave motivation to create the tapestry commemorating the lesser known and less recorded events leading up to the pivotal, and England transforming, events of Hastings. Brian stated that they are not historians but gave an excellent resume of the significant events of that year.

It's almost 1000 years ago and accounts vary dramatically. The victors tend to write the history and, in terms of 1066, that was the Norman conquerors, and very few written records from the time exist. But the events of three Kings in one year shows what an eventful year it was in England's history.

Events leading to the battle

England in the 11th century was a very different place to previous centuries. By the 900's the separate kingdoms of England had been brought under the control of one King. Previously England had been controlled by Earls and Earldoms and religious leaders. The single King brought together the Earldoms and formed The Witan – a group of Secular and Religious leaders.

All was thrown into disarray when King Edward ('the Confessor') died in January 1066 leaving no heir. The Witan knew there were varied claimants to the throne, and it was their decision to appoint the successor. In an attempt to quell other claimants, mostly from overseas, they appointed a new King in one day, a decision that would normally take weeks, if not months. Their choice was Harold Godwinson, Earl of Essex and Wessex. Harold was held in great respect by the other Earls, was considered a great military leader and controlled East Anglia, Mercia and Northumberland so would appear to be the most logical choice. However, there were others who felt they had a claim: -

- * Edgar Atheling – King Edward's great nephew
- * William of Normandy
- * Harald Hadrada, King of Norway
- * Tostig Godwinson, the younger brother of Harold

William of Normandy believed he had a divine right to the throne - it was mooted that King Edward had promised him the throne during his life. However it was Tostig Godwinson who made the first move against Harold. Tostig had lost his Earldom of Northumbria after an uprising, so perhaps felt he had nothing to lose. However, his attempt to defeat King Harold failed -Tostig fled to Scotland in an attempt to gain support from the Scottish King who remained unsupportive. As a result, Tostig sailed to Norway to persuade Harald Hadrada to invade. Harald Hadrada agreed and launched an invasion, landing in Scarborough which was destroyed.

King Harold had amassed an army to the South coast, having received notice that William of Normandy was about to launch an invasion. But on hearing about the Northern invasion, King Harold marched his army North in an attempt to surprise Hadrada and Tostig.

Harald Hadrada won the first battle, at Fulford (The Battle of Fulford) and intended to take York. Hadrada took half his Army to Stamford Bridge to await an exchange of hostages. King Harold took his army North to Tadcaster. Half of Hadrada's army was based at Riccall, and in a critical mistake, Hadrada chose not to bring his entire army together when King Harold arrived at Stamford Bridge to engage in battle. Various legends regarding the battle of Stamford Bridge are well known, including the story that a Norwegian

warrior held the bridge against the Saxons until killed with a spear from a Saxon boat under the bridge. The reality of the battle was that both Tostig and the Norwegian King were defeated, and killed at Stamford in what appears to have been a massacre. Of the 200 ships that arrived in Scarborough, only 24 returned to Norway, which shows the extent of the Norwegian King's defeat. This heralded the end of the Viking era in England.

King Harold received notice that William had landed on the South Coast – William took advantage of favourable winds to bring his army across and had time to amass a huge army with great resources. King Harold then marched his army South to meet William at Hastings.

This poses several questions such as: -

What would have happened if Harold had not had to fight in Stamford? If the weather hadn't changed in William's favour? Could Harold have defeated William?

The Stamford Tapestry

Ann told the story of how the tapestry came to exist. It was started in 2015 and took 5 years to complete. Initially the idea was to commemorate the Battle of Fulford and Tom Wiles, a local man from Stamford Bridge decided a tapestry should be made in the style of Bayeux to tell the story leading up to Hastings. 25 individual stitchers were brought together with assistance from Chris Rock – a graphic designer, and Shirley Smith, a local textile artist who had worked on The Game of Thrones.

Stem stitches were used to create an outline. Infill stitches were created as per the 'Bayeux stitch' which creates a 3-D effect. The material used was a finely woven twill, which cost £100 per panel – there are 15 panels. The initial design was stitched on to linen and then transferred. It was very time consuming – a single yellow horse took 15 hours! A very limited palette of colours was used, only 8 in total. The thread was dyed by a member of the History Society, using locally sourced herbs and natural plant colour. There are many different patterns of stitches, especially on chainmail.

Images were shown from 6 panels from the 15 total. The introductory panel contains the names of all the stitchers. Each panel has a symbol on it to denote the work of each stitcher. Some panels show some humour – one has a man with a mobile phone, there's an image of Chris Rock wearing glasses, and other characters are based on Stamford Bridge re-enactment actors! There's also a dog included with a story behind it – but the tapestry needs to be seen to understand!

In conclusion – the tapestry denotes 1 year, 3 Kings and 2 Kings slain. The tapestry is on display at Platform 66 in Stamford Bridge, where the old station used to be. It's housed in the Youth Club/Heritage Centre. The panels are protected with Perspex which is the same grade as riot shields to ensure their longevity.

They are available for viewing every Tuesday from 10.00 am – 2.00 pm.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Beverley and District Civic Society to be held at 7:30pm on **Thursday 15th October 2026** in St Mary's Church, Beverley.

AGENDA

- 1) Numbers Attending
- 2) Apologies for Absence
- 3) Minutes of the 2025 AGM
- 4) Matters Arising
- 5) To receive the Executive Committee's reports
 - 5.1) Chairman's Report
 - 5.2) Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements up to 30th September 2026
 - 5.3) Secretary's Report
 - 5.4) Membership Secretary's Report
- 6) To elect the Officers of the Society and Members of the Executive Committee for 2026-27
 - 6.1) Richard Fatkin for a further 3-year term as an Executive Committee member
 - 6.2) Richard Lidwell for a further 3-year term as an Executive Committee member
 - 6.3) Angela Mulford for a further 3-year term as an Executive Committee member
 - 6.4) Lesley Blucke for a further 3-year term as an Executive Committee member
 - 6.5) Peter Stevens for a further 3-year term as an Executive Committee member
 - 6.6) Nick Robinson for an initial 3-year term as an Executive Committee member
- 7) Any Other Business

The Executive Committee 2025/26

Officers

President	Andrew Marr
Vice-President	Graham Stuart M.P.
Chairperson	Dick Lidwell
Vice-Chairperson	Lesley Blucke
Honorary Secretary	Chris Harrod
Honorary Treasurer	Mike Farrimond

Members of the Executive

The Members of the Executive during 2025/26 were: -

Lesley Blucke
Mike Farrimond
Richard Fatkin
Neil Harris
Chris Harrod
Richard Lidwell
Angela Mulford
Rosie Ryan
Peter Stevens
Sandra Williams

NOTES

- i) *Co-opted members have an advisory and non-voting role. This year a co-opted member of the Executive has been Nick Robinson

DISCLAIMER

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