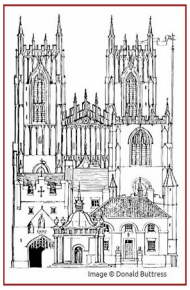


Newsletter:

March 2024

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

BEVERLEY CIVIC SOCIETY
Founded 1961

Chairman's Remarks

Courtesy - *Dick Lidwell*

'Where's that elusive pot of Gold?'

As I remember from earlier years, the post-Christmas time traditionally used to be one of peace, reflection, and hibernation from the cold and snowy weather, then leading into Lent for a period of abstinence awaiting the uplift of Spring. However 2024 appears nothing like that! Climate change bringing unpredictable weather, societal turmoil, terrible world events, together with our own Beverley issues create busy and unsettling times. Despite all the above let us 'Find that pot of gold' to lift the year!

As you will read below our Society has been active on many fronts. Thanks to Neil Harris' planning, the monthly talks have been stimulating and of high quality, with good numbers attending despite the adverse weather and cold conditions. (Our apologies for the failure of the projector at the last talk; it was a fault in transmission beyond our control). We continue to make representations on the controversial installation of broadband poles, plant trees, comment on planning matters, push for better maintenance of our streets, and make plans for future events. As always the Executive is keen to receive feedback on our record, and hear your suggestions for other possible activities.

Dick Lidwell

The arrival of broadband poles in Beverley….and elsewhere

To put this matter in context; there is a great inconsistency in Government thinking/policy. You may be aware of HMG's planning policy of 'Building Beautiful Places' and I quote below from the Government's website:

> 'The Building Beautiful Place's plan will mean good quality design will be paramount, with local communities put at the very heart of decision-making to help shape their towns and cities. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is being amended so that the Building Beautiful Places plan will mean residents and planners will find it easier to embrace beautiful, practical design while rejecting the ugly, unsustainable or poor quality. The changes set an expectation that all councils should develop a local design code - an illustrated design guide that sets the standard for a local area - with input from local people;' (The East Riding of Yorkshire Council has a Design Code almost in place).

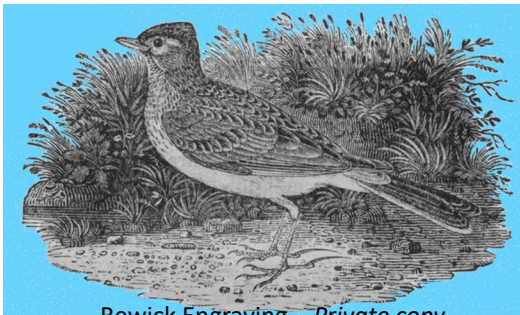
At the same time the 2015 legislation allows Broadband companies the right to erect poles wherever they want; a terrible piece of legislation with possibly, unintended consequences. Opening up competition for the delivery of services may be one thing, but disfiguring cities, towns and villages all over the country when there is the viable alternative of going underground is counter to many other policies on the environment and townscapes. Using 19th Century technology in the 21st Century!

As mentioned in the February Newsletter the Society has been active in opposing this development, and has attended two meetings with Connexin arranged by our MP, Graham Stuart. In the first we succeeded in getting an undertaking that poles would not be erected within our Conservation Areas, and that their recently installed unsightly large white cabinet at the junction of Champney Road and Lairgate would be repainted green (recently completed). Both the press (*Beverley Life*) and Graham Stuart's Office have recorded the undertaking by Connexin not to erect poles within Beverley's Conservation Areas. The Society has also received direct confirmation of this policy from Connexin.

Of course, the Conservation Areas cover only part of Beverley which leaves the rest of the town at risk and we shall continue to do what we can to protect these areas.

Following our last public meeting addressed by Civic Voice, we have requested that they make representations to both Ministers and Public Officials with whom they liaise on many planning matters. Furthermore, you may also be aware of actions taken by two of our Hull MPs: Emma Hardy's presentation of the petition to Parliament, and Dame Diana Johnson's Private Members bill. Unfortunately, neither of these initiatives have moved His Majesty's Government to take action; which is where the power lies.

DL
21 February 2024



Bewick Engraving – *Private copy*

Skylark

Larks are singing again on Westwood near Black Mill.
Heard on 26 February, maybe you heard one earlier?

Barbara English

The Opening of Lord Roberts Road

At a time when we are concerned about the future nature of Lord Roberts Road, we thought a note about its origins might be of interest. The opening of the road, and the reasons for it were covered in some detail in the *Beverley Independent*, 7 August 1909.

By the beginning of 1909, among Beverley's problems was traffic congestion, particularly from vehicles from the railway station wishing to access either the council offices or the west of the town. The narrowness of Butcher Row created a bottle neck, with a resulting traffic build up in Wednesday Market. Highgate House, on the west side of the market, the centre of a doctor's practice for a long number of years, had gradually fallen into disuse following the death of Dr. William Boulton in 1897. In 1907 it was proposed that the house be demolished, and a new road created which would link Toll Gavel and Cross Street.

Impression of Highgate House based on early photographs

Highgate House's location, directly opposite where Railway Street entered Wednesday Market, was ideal, and the existence of the large long garden behind ensured an almost clear route through to Cross Street. An additional benefit was that some of the garden land would also provide good size building plots for town villas. Infilling is clearly not only a recent solution to housing problems.

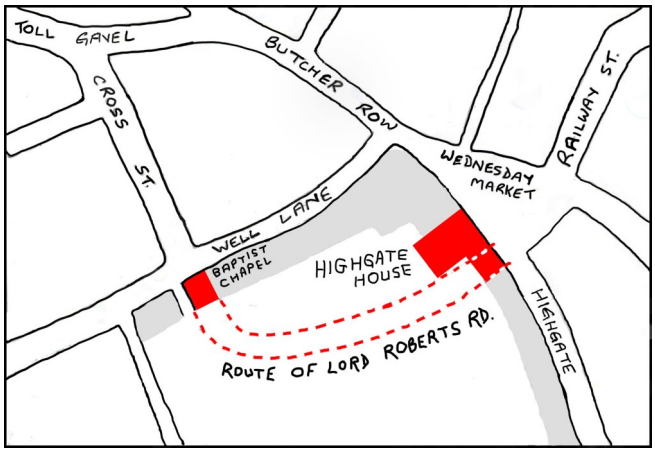
Reproduced with kind permission of East Riding Archives, ref: ERALS: PO/1/14/6

Initially there was some opposition to the idea. Not only would Highgate House be lost, but also the Baptist Chapel in Well Street would need to be demolished to make the link to Cross Street. The proposal was not acceptable to those whose watchword was 'Aye been'. Nor was it a cheap proposition - the purchase of both properties and the road making itself would have to be paid for. It was strongly supported, however by James Elwell who was not to be gainsaid. In the words of the *Independent's* reporter:

> "He advocated it with a persistency which he considered the cause deserved, and which those who know him know is a faculty inherent in him in any enterprise he takes in hand."

The impasse was resolved when Admiral Walker, Lairgate Hall, approved the idea and offered financial assistance with the making of the road, and the erection of a rifle range at the side of the new road. This generous offer helped change minds; so also did the knowledge that the Yorkshire Show was coming to Westwood in 1909, with potentially massive congestion for visitors coming by train if nothing was done. The final hurdle was overcome when the Council decided to sell the now disused Grovehill Public House. The £1,500 obtained would help cover the costs.

With the plan agreed, James Elwell purchased Highgate House, and oversaw the demolition of the left hand part of it, taking care to retain architectural features which might be useful in



Sketch map based on 1908 OS map

his woodcarving and building business. He used some of the material to create a fourth wall for the remaining part of the house, creating a 'new' villa which now faced on to the new road, moving the elaborate original doorway to create the new entrance. The Council temporarily rehoused the Baptist church in the public library, until such time as the new chapel (now the ERT) could be built. Work on the new road began in spring 1909, and it was formally opened by Admiral Walker on 5 August, in the presence of the Corporation and magistrates, as well as a large crowd of onlookers. The new road was to be named Lord Roberts Road, in honour of Lord Roberts of Kandahar, whose leadership in both the Afghanistan and Boer wars had won him the respect and affection of both the British army and the country as a whole. In dedicating the road to him, Admiral Walker made a point of stressing the need for Britain to prepare to defend itself - doubtless one of the reasons behind his gift of the Rifle Range to the town. He then turned his attention to those who had complained that the new road name was too unwieldy, pointing out that it was no longer than 'Wednesday Market'. Lastly he highlighted 'the magnificent view of the Minster' visible from the road, a pleasure we have continued to enjoy until now.

In gratitude for Admiral Walker's generosity to the town on both this and earlier occasions, the Council had agreed to to confer the Honorary Freedom of the Borough on him a ceremony which was carried out later the same day at the Guildhall. A pleasing feature of the ceremony was that that resolution making Walker a Freeman, had been illuminated and framed by James Elwell, in the wood from one of the Highgate House Jacobean windows which he had saved.


Opening of Lord Roberts Road 1909 - *Author's copy*

Extension of 20mph Zones – a Curate's Egg

The 20 mph zone has been extended to the south of the town, but this welcome traffic calming measure comes with a significant deficiency and a missed opportunity. The zone has been extended to commence in Flemingate, near the Leisure Centre, including Armstrong Way and all of Eastgate. It also extends into Minster Yard South and part of Keldgate where the 20mph signs have been placed most inappropriately in front of the wonderful south side of the Minster (see photo). They should be moved.

Flemingate – *Mike Farrimond*

Minster Road South – *Mike Farrimond*

This extension is welcomed, but why stop there? We continue to believe that the 20mph zone should include Lord Roberts Road, Champney Way, Lairgate, Hengate and North Bar Within. Such a scheme would be understandable to drivers and would declutter the street scene by removal of unnecessary signage. Let's have a 20mph zone covering all of the town centre, not just part of it.

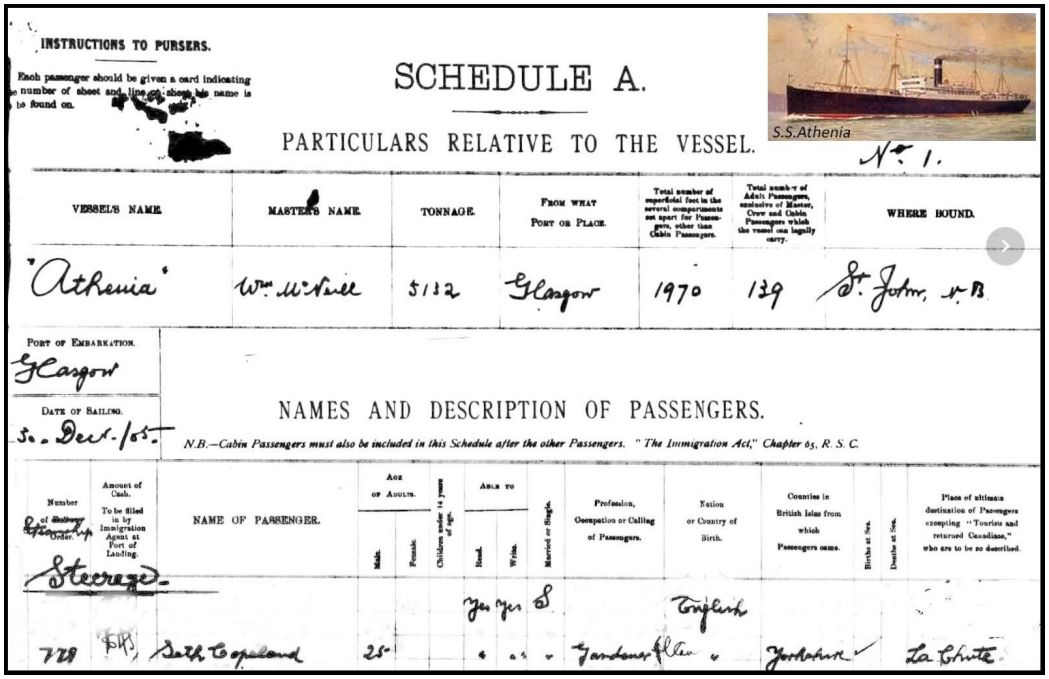
More on Reinstatement – yet another Curate's Egg

Following our comments on the use of black tarmac for reinstatement in the pedestrianised area of town, it is pleasing to report on the work completed in Landress Lane by Northern PowerGrid. The photographs show the excavations and the replaced block paving on completion of the work. The work in Old Walkergate/Butcher Row by Yorkshire Water and in Wednesday Market by Northern Gas Networks remain to be properly reinstated with block paving. Well done Northern Power Grid!

Landress Lane before & after – *Mike Farrimond*

‘Go West Young Man’

The ‘Go West Young Man’ idea was originally coined in the United States in the 1850s. By 1900, however, this idea of golden opportunities was gaining traction in Britain, although here it also linked to ideas of Empire, with Canada as the goal. Potential emigrants were attracted by the Canadian Government’s Dominion Lands Act 1872. This offered free homesteads of 160 acres to farmers, with referees, who cleared 10 acres and built a residence within three years of registering their claim.



INSTRUCTIONS TO PURSERS.

Each passenger should be given a card indicating the number of sheet and line on which his name is to be found on.

SCHEDULE A.

PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO THE VESSEL.

No. 1.

S.S.Athenia

VESSEL'S NAME	MASTER'S NAME	TONNAGE	FROM WHAT PORT OR PLACE	Total number of superficial feet in the several compartments set apart for Passengers, other than Cabin Passengers.	Total number of Adult Passengers, exclusive of Master, Crew and Cabin Passengers which the vessel can legally carry.	WHERE BOUND.
"Athenia"	Wm. McNeil	5132	Glasgow	1970	139	St. John, N.B.

PORT OF EMBARKATION. Glasgow

DATE OF SAILING. 30 Dec. 1905

NAMES AND DESCRIPTION OF PASSENGERS.

N.B.—Cabin Passengers must also be included in this Schedule after the other Passengers. "The Immigration Act," Chapter 65, R. S. C.

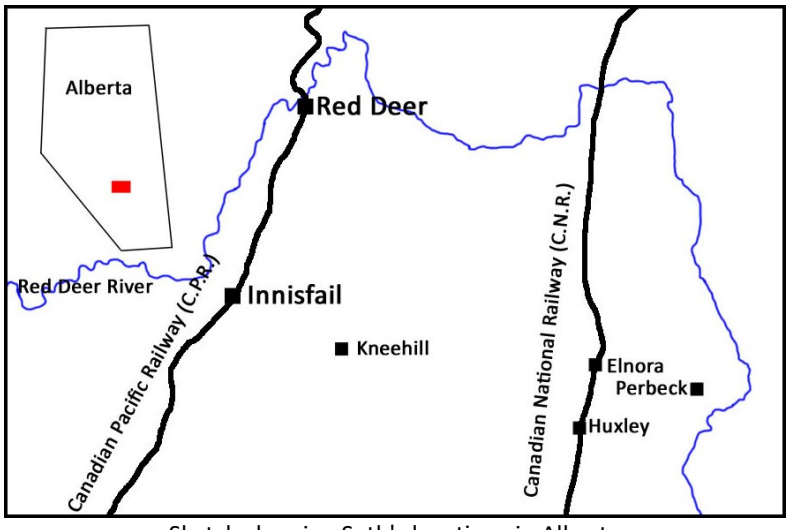
Number of Steerage Order.	Amount of Cash. To be filled in by Immigration Agent at Port of Landing.	NAME OF PASSENGER.	Age of Adults. Male.	Age of Adults. Female.	Children under 12 years of age.	Able to Read.	Able to Write.	Married or Single.	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers.	Nation or Country of Birth.	Country in British Isles from which Passengers came.	Births at Sea.	Deaths at Sea.	Place of ultimate destination of Passengers excepting "Tourists and returned Canadians," who are to be so described.
Steerage.														
728		Seth Copeland	25						Gardener	England	Yorkshire			La Chute

Extract from the Passenger list of the *S.S. Athenia* 30 December 1905 - *Ancestry.co.uk*

Seth Copeland, born in 1880 to a farm labourer, was attracted by this offer. Seth had left his family home in Beverley to work as a domestic gardener in Sussex when he was 15. By 1900 he was ready for another move. After returning to Beverley, he decided to try his luck in Canada, sailing on the emigrant ship, the *S.S. Athenia,* for St. John, New Brunswick in December 1905.

This decision may have been encouraged by the Reverend Reginald Pyne, one of the ministers at the Minster. Pyne had experienced life in North America, where his father had ministered for some time. Certainly, once in Canada, Seth wrote regularly to Pyne, letters which were published in the *Beverley and East Riding Recorder*; and when Pyne visited Canada in 1906, Seth, now joined by his brothers Robert and Albert, were among the first people he sought out. The three men were settled in Quebec, at La Chute, a township midway between Ottawa and Montreal. Albert was a builder, but both Robert and Seth were working on farms, work which Seth described as ‘not hard, but long hours in the busy season’.

Two years later Seth and Robert were ready to move on, and had references to show for their time in Quebec. Initially the men found employment at Innisfail, Alberta, managing a farm for a widow, Mrs. Levick. Writing to Pyne in November 1908, Seth describes the very different demands of a prairie farm: harvesting vegetable crops and hay, threshing grain in the ‘gigantic’ mill - very different from those at home; rounding up cattle on the prairie; butchering animals to sell; clearing the prairie of willow brush, before ploughing some 50 acres at a rate of 3 acres a day; repairing farm buildings; and fencing. It



Sketch showing Seth's locations in Alberta

was not all work however - there were sports teams to join; wild fowling; lectures, socials and other entertainments - ‘a large amount of pleasure’. Winter arrived in earnest at the beginning of January 1909, when temperatures dropped to between minus 40 and 65 degrees fahrenheit. Men and animals suffered from frostbite, and despite three stoves, food in the house froze solid. Five feet of solid ice had to be broken for creek water for the calves, and many loads of feed a week needed to be chopped for the cattle. Despite it all, Seth wrote, 'we are delighted with the country and with the work. We are now capable of tackling any task, no matter how difficult, which we may have before us.’ They were learning new skills - when a steer had to be killed for beef - Seth used part of the hide to make boots, and Robert made himself a saddle.

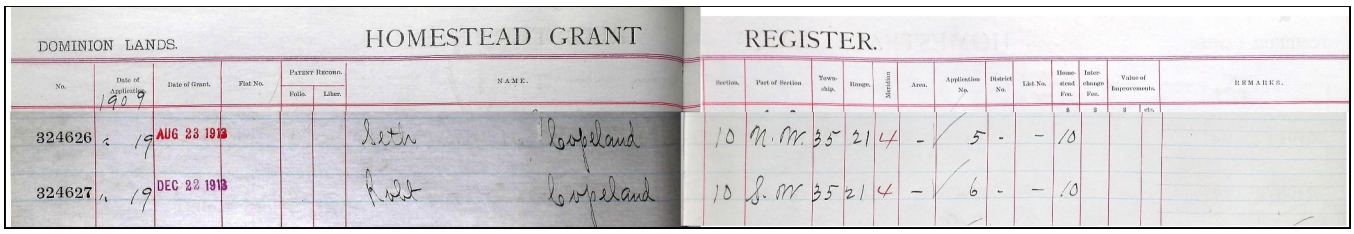
On 17 February 1909, both brothers formally applied for homesteads and were awarded holdings some 60 miles east of Innisfail, close to the Red River. Initially Robert remained at Levick Farm, while Seth began work on his holding. He first built a sod house, dug a well and began clearing the land. He acquired a team of oxen, more fitted for the heavy work than horses. Then he borrowed a waggon to bring his belongings from Innisfail. He found the waggon would not hold everything he wanted, but he managed to pack flour, groceries, cured meats, plough, trunks, barrel, ropes, logging chain, box of carpenter’s tools, axe, crowbar, pick, shovel, glass, nails, locks and hinges, pails, garden tools, cooking stove, potatoes, grain, and a crate of poultry! The return journey was difficult - with the coming of the thaw, the heavily laden wagon sank deep into the mud on the way back and he even had to unload almost the whole waggon before the oxen could drag it clear.

When he returned, he found that his neighbour had cut him sufficient logs to build a better cabin, although Seth had to haul them the six miles to the site. The neighbour also provided roofing and helped with construction, so that by early June, Seth had a cabin 12 x 14 feet, with a bedroom in its loft, where he slept on a pile of hay. Now the most important task was to plough a fireguard 100 yards round the building to protect it from prairie fire. He built a stable for his pony with the sods removed in the making of the firebreak, and ploughed the enclosed land, preparing a vegetable patch for the following year. It was to yield some 15 cwt. potatoes and a few bushels of carrots, parsnips and onions, basic crops for both man and animals.

He now had to begin clearing his land for farming. By the end of three years 40 acres had to be ready. That first year he achieved some 10 acres, noting in his letters how the stony soil blunted the plough, and that it was a 16 mile journey to the blacksmith for repairs. His land was quite isolated - 20 miles from a doctor, 12 from the store and post-office. Robert’s holding was seven miles away, but his arrival in July to begin work on his own homestead must have been very welcome. Now the two brothers were able to share much of the work on both holdings, although at times both hired themselves out to other farmers, to enable them to buy additional equipment and stock. They also took on a contract to provide winter food for 100 head of cattle grazing a canyon near Seth’s homestead, and hoped for some logging contracts, which they would fulfil while cutting logs for Robert’s cabin. With the money earned, Seth got a horse rake, a new stronger breaking plough, and a mower, and was able to buy a herd of five milk cows, a cream separator, and a shorthorn bull from one of his neighbours. Jointly, the brothers could also afford to get their own waggon.

Reverend Pyne left Beverley in 1910, and no further letters were published, so details of exactly what happened over the next two years are missing. On 29 September 1912, however, Seth’s ownership of his homestead was formally confirmed. According to his sworn statement at that time, he had broken 35 acres of land, and cropped 28. To his livestock he had added seven cattle and two hogs. His farmhouse had been extended to 14 x 34 ft; he had built an 18 x 24 ft. barn; a granary 16 foot square; and a chicken house. The entire homestead had been fenced. This was no small achievement. On looking at the land registers for the period, between one third and one half of all the grants made to

settlers were cancelled as the conditions were not met. Both Seth and Robert made the grade, continued to farm, married, and raised Canadian families.


DOMINION LANDS. HOMESTEAD GRANT REGISTER.

No.	Date of Application	Date of Grant	Plat No.	Patent Recom. Folio	Patent Recom. Liber	NAME.	Section.	Part of Section	Township.	Range.	Meridian	Area.	Application No.	District No.	Lict No.	Homestead Fee.	Interchange Fee.	Value of Improvements.	REMARKS.
324626	1907	AUG 23 1913				Seth Longeland	10	N.W.	35	21	4	-	5	-	-	10			
324627	1907	DEC 22 1913				Robt Longeland	10	S.W.	35	21	4	-	6	-	-	10			

Seth and Robert's entries in the Grant Register confirming their Homesteads - *Ancestry.co.uk*

Although Seth remained in Canada, his connection with the East Riding was renewed when during the Second World War, his son John, serving with the Canadian Forces in England, married Edyth Joan Scales, who came from Hull

Jane Bowen

Civic Voice - 8th February 2024

Our most recent public meeting on February 8th invited Martin Hamilton, the Chair of Civic Voice, to speak to members about the role of Civic Voice (of which we are a member) and its work as a national organisation.

Civic Voice is an overarching organisation representing Civic Societies across the UK. It was founded in 2009-10 when the previous Civic Trust was folded. The strap line for the organisation is 'Civic Voice talking Civic Sense'. Much of the work of the organisation is to demonstrate to Government and Local Authorities that it does speak with good sense and can influence and shape policies for the better.

The organisation facilitates the sharing of ideas, be it through zoom, meetings or workshops. Here issues of concern, projects and experiences can be discussed and evaluated. When common ground is found important points can be made collectively and with authority.

How does the organisation communicate with those in power? One of the main ways is through the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). This is chaired by Craig McKinley. Through this group events are held at the Houses of Parliament often with specialist speakers.

A recent area of discussion has been the future of the High Street. Concern has risen about the High Street following COVID, the increase in working from home and, of course, the rise in internet shopping. Discussion has taken place with Historic England and the High Street Task Force. The organisation is also looking at the recent concept of street votes, where voting for developments can take place even on a street level. Civic Voice may not necessarily agree with the proposals and ideas put forth but it is important to understand the issues and ideas so that a response can be thoughtful and informed.

Civic Voice both responds to Government policy and is consulted on legislative initiatives. As once again the planning process is reformed, Civic Voice played a role in drawing up an authoritative report. The changes made to the resulting White Paper suggests its input had some influence. It has also commissioned reports, most recently from Reading University, on the planning process.

It can also query new initiatives and proposals. Recently it has been suggested that the Blue Plaque scheme run by Historic England in London should be rolled out nationally. Three plaques per year should be erected as a pilot scheme and funded by Historic England. Whilst it is clear that

underrepresented areas might need some support, the selection of appropriate sites and subjects has normally been the provenance of local Civic Societies. So, it is hoped that a survey consulting these Societies will consider form, criteria and materials, and feed back to Historic England. Martin explained that in Leeds (His home Civic Society) they have increasingly celebrated more diverse elements in their plaques, for example the home of the Northern Star, the first Chartist Newspaper. The things that engage and interest the population of Leeds might not necessarily interest Historic England. The pilot scheme will run, but a wider roll out might depend on the results of the Civic Voice consultation.

Civic Voice consult with a number of influential groups such as Power to Change, Historic England and Town and Country Planning. Individual meetings also occur with the directors of key bodies and Ministers such as Michael Gove. It is also involved in the development of Business Improvement Districts and Community Improvement Districts. How can money raised from stakeholders be used most effectively to improve the environment, footfall and feasibility?

With a forthcoming General Election, Civic Voice is designing a manifesto setting out for all the political parties what it believes their focus should be in the forthcoming Parliament. This includes Energy and Climate Change, planning system, levelling up, and the High Street (and many more!). It is important to talk to local candidates, use the local press and social media to put views across. Civic Voice looks to engage with influential voices who shape national policy, both those in and outside of Government, so that it can play a significant role in the future.

There are 3 forthcoming meetings of all Civic Societies. These are

- Wakefield -13th April
- Colchester-18th May
- Malvern-TBC.

National Civic Day is celebrated on 15th June and is an opportunity for Societies to communicate with residents, share their concerns and get them involved.

ERYC supporting Young Market Traders – 27th March in Wednesday Market

East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) supported by the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF) are hosting a pilot Young Traders Market in Wednesday Market, Beverley on the 27th March 2024, from 10am - 4pm. Why not go along and see what these young entrepreneurs have to offer?

Beverley Civic Society Event

A talk from Jane Bowen on why Beverley residents emigrated to Canada in 1906 and their lives thereafter.

The Beverley Emigrants, April 1906 photographed by local photographer Charles Goulding, near the Guildhall
Courtesy the Speaker

7.30pm, Thursday 14 March 2024
St Mary's Church, Beverley
Non-members are welcome £5

MEMBER YHACS

CIVIC VOICE talking civic sense

DISCLAIMER

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