

# Newsletter:

March 2026

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

**BEVERLEY  
CIVIC  
SOCIETY**

Founded 1961

## Chairman's Remarks



Watery and Grey scenes...Willow Grove and sheltering pigeons (how many?)

Courtesy Dick Lidwell

### "March comes in like a lion, goes out like a lamb"

So now let's hope as the Beatles used to sing "Here Comes The Sun"!

Those who ventured out on a cold and damp February evening were rewarded with an excellent and informative talk by Andy Barber on the 'Beverley Housing Charity' (still registered as the Beverley Consolidated Charity). A full report follows in this newsletter. This was the first of our 2026 talks, and the programme is printed on the membership cards which were available to collect on the night and will be at subsequent meetings, and is also on the Society's website.

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

Reflecting the many recent anniversaries of armed conflicts, our March talk will be given by Alan Deighton on the 'Injured soldiers of Beverley in WWI and WWII' which will highlight an often less featured aspect of such conflicts.

### Portraits of Two Pastures

Following the success of the popular film featuring Beverley Westwood in 2024, Kloskk Tyrer returns with a new film exploring the lesser-known landscapes of Figham and Swinemoor pastures. Offering a unique blend of contemporary footage and nostalgic memories from Beverley people it is hoped the film will bring back memories for those who frequented the pastures as children and encourage those who have never been to explore these beautiful places. Running approximately 20 minutes, the film plays on a continuous loop - no booking is required, just turn up and stay as long as you wish.

[https://www.eastridingmuseums.co.uk/find-a-museum/museum/?entry=beverley\\_guildhall](https://www.eastridingmuseums.co.uk/find-a-museum/museum/?entry=beverley_guildhall)

Dick Lidwell

## Tree planting at the Cherry Tree Youth Hub



The Society was able to donate some cherry trees for the new Youth Club, built last summer with the help of Nick Knowles and the DIY SOS team, involving many local businesses.

They were planted in mid February with the help of the Youth Club members and their leaders. We also had help from BUG (Beverley Urban Gardeners) and gave them some trees for Grovehill Green and Grovehill Road.

We got very muddy but had a fantastic morning with everyone getting stuck in, and then had tea and biscuits in the new club.

We are very grateful to everyone who came to the Society's summer garden party which raised the money for this project.



All images with permission of the Youth Club  
Images courtesy *Dick Lidwell*

### Appeals:

At the time of writing we are still awaiting the result of the Planning appeal on the **Lord Roberts Road application**. This was lodged in August last year and seems to be taking a rather long time. We hope to hear news soon.

### Land South of 15 Minster Moorgate:

The appeal for the application has been allowed. Ref: 25/01773/PLF.

‘Construction of means of access and erection of double gates following part removal of existing brick wall and re-location of existing street light on Land South of 15 Minster Moorgate Beverley East Riding Of Yorkshire HU17 8HP.’

### A couple of other recent applications:

**Beverley Station:** An application to extend platform 2 (for trains going North) has been approved. There are the remains of a platform from earlier times so this is a reinstatement and will enable passengers to enter and leave the longer Hull Trains.

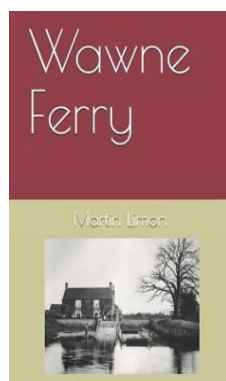
**The Green Dragon, Saturday Market:** An application for internal and external works has been approved; for full details see: 25/02872/PLB.

*Dick Lidwell.*



For anyone who is interested in Local History:-

## Wawne Ferry by Martin Limon



Wawne Ferry operated over the River Hull for over 800 years until it closed in 1946. This history of the ferry uses original research from local newspapers and other historical sources together with the personal recollections of local people. The book is available in paperback and kindle versions from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

This is a new edition of a UK local history book that was first published in 2003. This edition uses the original text but also includes new material from local newspapers, census returns and the findings of further research. This new edition also features numerous old photographs of the ferry in operation. (as per amazon.co.uk)

**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.**

**On 1st March 1916**, a new Royal Flying Corps Squadron, the No 47 Home Defence Squadron, was formed at Beverley, on the racecourse site.

**On 2nd March 1406**, James, Duke of Rothesay, son of Robert III of Scotland, was on his way to sanctuary in France, when he was captured by pirates, held in the Danish Tower in Flamborough for a time, then handed over to English King Henry IV.

**On 3rd March 742AD**, Yolfrida, daughter of Earl Puch, Lord of the Manor of South Burton (now Bishop Burton), died and was buried at Beverley. She was a nun at Bishop Burton monastery.

**On 3rd March 1195**, Hugh de Puiset died, aged about 70, at the Bishop's Palace, Howden. He was Bishop of Durham for over 40 years. In 1190 he had been imprisoned in his palace at Howden for overstepping his authority. He supported the chronicler Roger of Howden.

**On 4th March 1666**, Edward Grey, Mayor of Beverley, and Robert Hildyard were in correspondence with the Mayor of Hull about plague in North Frodingham and the precautions taken in Beverley against infection; a week later, they sent a certificate that North Frodingham was clear of infection.

**On 5th March 1642**, Queen Henrietta Maria stopped one night at the Manor House, Burton Fleming. She was still on her way to York to join her husband, Charles I, with arms from Holland. Then she is said to have stayed 2 weeks at Boynton with the Stricklands. Luckily, Sir William, Parliamentary MP for Hedon, was away in London.

**On 6th March 1919**, the RAF Squadron 248 at Hornsea Mere seaplane station disbanded. From August 1918, it flew coastal patrols with Short 184 and Fairey Hamble Baby floatplanes off the Yorkshire coast.

**On 7th March 1866**, Archbishop of York called a 'day of humiliation' when East Riding ministers were instructed to 'exhort the people to accept this grievous murrain as a chastisement from the hand of our loving Father', in response to the Great Cattle Plague. Rinderpest had been introduced from Russia through Hull cattle imports, leading to widespread slaughter, and restrictions on the movement of cattle. Many areas of the country were affected.

**On 8th March 1517**, Thomas Tode, cutler, of Beverley, claimed sanctuary at the church of St John, Beverley, for theft.

**On 9th March 1767**, Beverley Coroner's Court jury found (James?) Brown, aged 30, guilty of poisoning his wife, aged 45 and of independent means. Brown appears to have escaped to London, but was arrested and found guilty, his sentence commuted to 7 years' transportation.

**On 10th March 1800**, George Hudson, the "Railway King", was born in Howsham. He made a great business and political career from sharp practice and bribery (was MP for Sunderland, and Lord Mayor of York). He became hugely rich, but was disgraced, and imprisoned for debt, though released when his debts were paid by public subscription. In 1845, he bought the Londesborough Estate for £470,000.

**On 11th March 1296**, John Romanus (John le Romaine) Archbishop of York, died aged about 66 in the Archbishop's Palace, Bishop Burton; he was buried in York Minster. He protected poor villagers in 1286 by ordering his parish priests in Holderness not to demand tithes from those earning 5 shillings a year or less.

**On 12th March 1622**, Josias Lambert, schoolmaster, left the employment of Francis Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, after 9 months teaching 'scholars', which may have included some of the Londesborough House household staff

and/or their children. The Earl also supported the village school at (Market) Weighton.

**On 13th March 1640**, on instructions from the Duke of Northumberland, Sir Edward Osborne, for the Council in the North, arranged for 2,000 horses and men to be quartered in and around Hull, together with arms for them.

**On 14th March 1471**, during the Wars of the Roses, King Edward IV landed about 2,000 men at Ravenspurn when a storm drove them into the Humber for shelter. Some ships landed as far west as Paull.

**On 15th March 1618**, the 1st recorded Kiplingcotes Derby was run; it is said to date back to 1519. The winner receives £50, but the 2nd receives the sum of the entry fees, which may be much more. Even in wartime, severe weather or foot and mouth outbreaks, at least 1 horse has completed the course to ensure the continuity of the event. In 2018, due to flooding, one rider walked the course. Race rules state that if the race is not run one year, it must never be run again.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJu7HI3SXlc>

**On 16th March 1879**, Colonel Sir Tatton Benvenuto Mark Sykes, (usually known as Sir Mark) was born in Sledmere. He was a traveller, author, MP for Hull Central, advisor to the Government on Middle East affairs, and co-author of the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which partitioned the Ottoman Empire. (died of flu 16.2.1919)

**On 17th March 1966**, Barbara Foster failed to win the Kiplingcotes Derby when her horse collapsed and died.

**On 18th March 1924**, Sir James Reckitt died in Hull aged 90. A businessman, JP, politician and philanthropist, he joined his father's business, and created Garden Village as a model village for the company's workers. Amongst his charitable works were contributions to Hull Royal Infirmary, Newland Homes for Seamen's Children, the building of the city's first public library, donated to the city, and the donation of Withernsea Convalescent Home to the Infirmary. He established the Sir James Reckitt Charity. (b 15.11.1833)

**On 19th March 1941**, Mr & Mrs Severs and their 2 children were killed in an air raid at Highfield Farm, Hutton Cranswick. Other damage nearby, probably intended for Hull, included 70 high explosive bombs and incendiaries at Watton Abbey Farm, mostly in the fields, the destruction of Mrs Arnell's grocer's shop, and a fire in Hutton church. Arthur Swift of Wawne Common Farm recorded incendiaries and high explosives, which blew out all the windows and tiles off every building in the farm. The ghost of a Watton Abbey monk was said to have been seen that night.

**On 20th March 1735**, London merchant Timothy Woolfe died aged 35, and was buried in Bridlington Priory church; he left the interest on £500 to the poor of Bridlington and area, not exceeding 5 miles distance.

**The spring equinox, 21st March**, was the original date for April Fool's day. Medieval rituals made fun of church figures, until they were outlawed in the 16th century. The date changed to April 1st, and the foolery lost its religious focus. Or have I just fooled you?

**On 22nd March 1834**, labourer Robert Billany of Thorngumbald was found guilty at York Castle Assizes of setting fire to a stack of straw belonging to Peter Ingleby, and was sentenced to execution, although he was reprieved as there was doubt as to the soundness of his mind.

**On 23rd March 1671**, merchant William Bower died aged 74 at Bridlington Quay. He used his own money to build a school to educate the poor children of Bridlington Quay in the art of carding, knitting and spinning wool, and left £20 in his will for its maintenance.

**On 24th March 1905**, Charles Edward Hollings, Driffield Medical Officer of Health, published his report for the previous year, noting the very low birth-rate (23.6 per thousand) and high death-rate in the area (16.2 per thou). The principal diseases were respiratory disease and heart disease, with the incidence and mortality rate from cancer notably higher amongst agricultural labourers.

**On 25th March 1725**, Sir John Warton died at 77 in Beverley. He was reputed to be the richest man in England, even though his father's estates had been depleted by fines to Parliament for Royalism. He was elected MP for Hull, and twice MP for Beverley, but took little active interest in Parliament. In his will, he left £4,000 for the repair of Beverley Minster, £1,000 to Warton's Hospital, £500 to the charity school, £100 to the poor and £100 to each parish in Beverley.

**On 26th March 1706**, the congregation of Cottingham church gave 4s in a collection for the repair of Beverley Minster.

**On 27th March 1349**, an earthquake was recorded at Meaux and in Beverley, as in much of Eastern England. The monks were at prayer, and had reached the 2nd verse of Psalm 60 – 'Thou hast made the earth to tremble; Thou hast broken it'.

**On 28th March 2011**, Dave Foster and Mick Bateman bought Bettison's Folly, Hornsea, for £1 plus legal fees. The tower was built in the 1850s by brewer William Bettison, supposedly so that his servant could watch for his return home and have his meal ready as soon as he arrived. A siren was put on the tower during WW2, when it was also used as an air-raid lookout.

**On 29th March 1759**, John Courtney recorded in his diary that the Beverley Assembly Rooms in North Bar Street/Lairgate hosted 'a very splendid show of ladies and gentlemen and a very agreeable ball'; Beverley lacked industry, but was a desirable place for gentry to build large Georgian houses.

**On 30th March 1860**, the Turner's Trust (Beverley) charity was registered as part of the will of printer Matthew Turner, to distribute sums of £10 10s each to well conducted, honest, deserving, sober and discreet domestic servants. At its first distribution in 1862, there were 240 applicants, of whom 68 were successful. The charity still operates. Turner is buried in Coronation Gardens.

**On 31st March 1621**, Andrew Marvell was born in Winestead to local vicar Andrew Marvell, who later became Master of Hull Charterhouse. Marvell junior was a renowned poet, and MP for Hull several times. During the Civil War, he travelled in Europe, prompting some to suggest he was employed as an English spy. He acted as London agent for Hull Trinity House. Died in Hull 1678, and is buried in St Giles in the Fields, London



## Of Interest to Our Members

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

Cottingham Local History Society

#### **The Berry Mug and the Hull whaling trade in the 18 century**

Mike Rymer

7.45 – 9.15pm at Cottingham Civic Hall

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Hessle Local History Society

#### **Victorian Music Hall**

7.15pm at Hessle Town Hall

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Heritage Talk – Elizabeth I and the Succession Crises**

12.00 – 1.30pm at Hull Minster

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Barton upon Humber Civic Society

#### **Lancasters, Lincolnshire and International Bomber Command**

Air Vice Marshall Paul Robinson

7.30pm at Joseph Wright Hall, Queen Street, Barton upon Humber

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Reopening of Hull's Spurn Lightship near Murdoch's Connection Footbridge in Hull Marina.**

Open Wed-Sunday 11am-3.00pm.

Free to visit

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March

#### **Stained Glass Tour**

10.30am at Hull Minster

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Hull Civic Society

#### **The Long History of Hull Male voice Choir**

Alan Bagshawe, Bill Leigh and Greg

Clarkson

7.30pm at Holiday Inn Express

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Heritage Talk – The Earles of Hull**

12.00 – 1.30pm at Hull Minster

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Hedon and District Local History Society

#### **The Ups and Downs of Horse Racing in and around Hedon**

Tony Potter

2.00pm at Hedon Methodist Church

Members might be interested in a free E-Book  
Newbald-A history of a village by Howard Fuller

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

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Hull and East Riding Historical Association

#### **Robspierre's nose, The Physionotrace and Revolutionary portraiture**

Dr Marianne Gilchrist, Hull University

7.30pm at Nordic Church, Hull

With our anticipated Margaret Powell lecture later in the year focusing on Beverley Art Gallery, members might wish to explore this link, detailing future exhibitions at the Gallery

<https://www.eastridingmuseums.co.uk/whats-on>

# **A talk from Mr Andrew Barber OBE – Chief Executive of Beverley Housing Charity (also known as the Beverley Consolidated Charity)**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

## **‘The Almshouse Way’**

Mr Barber started with an introduction about his background, starting his working life as a publican in Leeds and then this locality. He then joined Dove House Hospice as a fundraiser (and made reference to the philanthropic contribution of the Sergent family locally via their electrical business). From there he helped establish the HEY Smile Foundation, the charity that supports other charities of which he was one of the founders. Mr Barber established a network of volunteers who were instrumental during Covid in distributing vaccines, and in recognition of this he was awarded the OBE. He has a long association with Holderness House and the Stadium Foundation which is a major donor for helping in the community.

The Beverley Housing Charity has seen much modernisation in recent years. This is the working name to make a clear distinction as to what they do, though they are still registered as the Beverley Consolidated Charity. Over the years the Charity has liquidated some of its land assets to enable investment into the Almshouses – land was sold to allow the building of the Morrisons supermarket and also for the East Riding Community hospital as two examples. They still own some allotments and continue to invest. The modernisation of the charity ensures that the residents of their properties are not associated with poverty in the way they once were. The intention is to be much more approachable than they were in the past.

The role of Almshouses was described as ‘Relief In Need’, predominantly helping people over 60 and prioritising Beverley residents. People with the greatest needs are encouraged to contact the Board of Trustees who decide the allocation if approved.

Beverley properties currently available to rent according to Rightmove are: -

- ◆ 2 bedrooms – 15 (average rent £786)
- ◆ 1 bedroom – 4 (average rent £712.50)
- ◆ Bungalows – 0 (regardless of size!)

Clearly there is a huge supply gap, and pressure on affordability, and the balance between modern and older homes is yet to be addressed.

The charity’s Almshouses are a mixture of old and modern properties, but all are there to provide a stable and safe environment. There is a long history of Almshouses in Britain, the earliest being founded in 990, so over 1,000 years of giving. Trinity Hospital was founded in 1397, the newest is Appleby Bloom in London. Beverley has several traditional Almshouses:-

- ◆ The Warton family – 1688-1724
- ◆ Ann Routh – 1749-1802
- ◆ Ellen Kenningham – 1860
- ◆ Bede Homes 1862
- ◆ Keldgate – 1863
- ◆ Woodlands – 1868
- ◆ Maisons – 1934

In 1912 several independent charities were brought together to form the Beverley Consolidated Charities, a major achievement. Merial Dunn and Eric Bielby were significant in the process.

Properties include: -

- ◆ New Walkergate
- ◆ Citadel Court (18 flats)
- ◆ Crown Mews
- ◆ Leconfield Close (relatively new)
- ◆ Eric Bielby Close
- ◆ Ann Routh
- ◆ Maisons
- ◆ Keldgate (2 more)
- ◆ Bede Homes

Ann Routh's Almshouse is due to have £1.6m of refurbishment, the plans were on display. Major works include windows and better access whilst preserving the historical integrity of this Listed building. This property is a real challenge; it needs upgrading but sympathetically. Many are difficult to maintain, with reference made to Maisons near Tesco and Bede Homes needing further work. Maisons will soon have 6 fully refurbished properties.

EPC ratings are increasingly important and there is the HAPPI Standard about 'Housing our ageing population'.

How does the charity work?

- ◆ A maintenance fee
- ◆ Investment property
- ◆ Investment in shares

The charity owns properties on Railway Street – they were going to sell these to raise funds for ongoing maintenance, however they were awarded a grant from Homes England for £450K so are now able to retain them. The principles of the charity are as follows: -

- ◆ Generous/flexible space
- ◆ Accessibility/adaptability
- ◆ Natural light
- ◆ Energy Efficiency
- ◆ Social and communal space
- ◆ Integration and location
- ◆ Safety and wellbeing

The charity currently holds £28m in assets, including its 163 properties. They are currently maximising their permanent endowment, an application is in process for a commuted sum and they are being supported by the Charity Bank, Homes England and ERYC.

Mr Barber told a story about a resident called David, and his re-housing into appropriate accommodation after spending a fortune for his place in a residential home. He also thanked his team for their support.

### Recent achievements

In the last 6 months they have brought Age UK back to Beverley, securing £500K – they will remain for at least 5 years. The charity's office has now moved to Morton Lane in the old Persimmon Homes office where Sandersons Solicitors are based. They previously had an office above Glenholme florists. They have been working with people suffering from Parkinson's Disease to support independent living. 'A partnership to support independence'. 65% of their properties have now been refurbished at a cost of £35-40,000 for each accommodation. They now have 180 residents in 163 properties. They have been instrumental in adopting a 'care and Repair' initiative to help people to stay in their own homes with suitable maintenance by approved contractors – they manage the maintenance for their clients which also helps to prevent fraud. They recently discovered that the 'Lifeline' service used by many was not needed so the cost of this has been turned into a 'hardship fund' which is much more beneficial for residents.

Their desire is to build more homes. Whilst there has been some work towards 'passive house' developments, many residents found them to be too radical a lifestyle change and therefore difficult to work with. Some people find them to be overwhelming. Mr Barber suggested that the Lord Roberts Road development would be the perfect location for Almshouses. If the current plan for that site doesn't come to fruition, he urged those present to support an application by the Beverley Housing Charity should the opportunity arise.

Also, they are looking for a new person to head up their gardening due to the imminent retirement of the current gardener.

To conclude, Mr Barber stated what's important for a good retirement: -

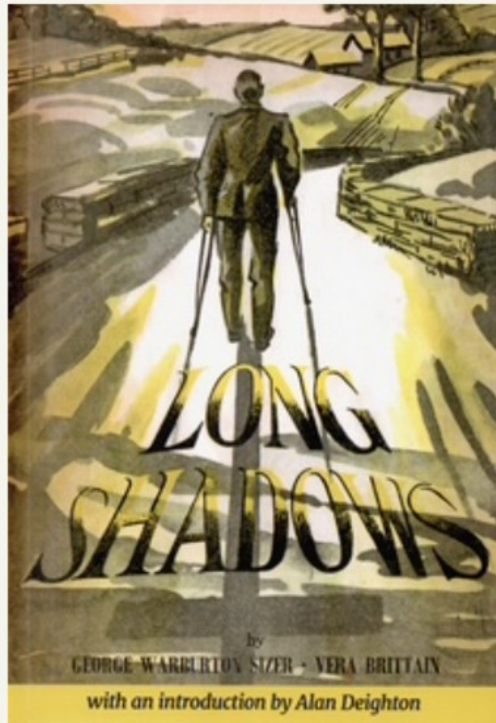
- ◆ Social connections
- ◆ Physical and mental stimulation
- ◆ Access to resources you are entitled to
- ◆ A quality warm and affordable home

*Richard Fatkin*

# Beverley Civic Society Event

**The injured soldiers of Beverley in WWI and WWII**

*A talk by Alan Deighton*



**7.30pm, Thursday 12 March 2026**

**St Mary's Church, Beverley**

Non-members are welcome £5



## DISCLAIMER

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