

Newsletter:

March 2025

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

**BEVERLEY
CIVIC
SOCIETY**

Founded 1961

Chairman's Remarks



Sunlight upon the Market Cross - courtesy *Dick Lidwell*

Beverley is blessed with so much wonderful architecture that sometimes catches the eye in unexpected ways...maybe the view from Westwood with sunset reflecting the warmth of the mellow Tadcaster limestone of the Minster's twin towers, or, as here, the sun briefly highlighting the lantern of our beautifully proportioned Market Cross. The National theme for this year's Heritage Open Days is 'Architecture'. Beverley and District has amazing examples of many architectural styles which we hope to be featuring in our varied programme of visits and talks this September.

The topics and speakers of our recent public talks have attracted large numbers; despite the cold and adverse weather. Our next Public talk on Thursday 13th March will be given by Laurel Vines of Aike; a fascinating example of an enterprising small but growing business which has developed, taking advantage of our local climate, geology and terrain. At the end of the talk tasting samples will be available together with the opportunity for buying a bottle too. This year's membership card, listing the full programme of talks, will be available again for you to pick up at the meeting.

Dick Lidwell

Proposed Residential Care Home:

A planning application has been made for a large (65 beds) care home to be located off Voase Way, and adjacent to Willow Lane, the stream and Keldmarsh Nature Reserve. Whilst appreciating that there is a rising demand for such facilities, the Society has raised a number of issues, including the size and design of the building, loss of green space and impact on wildlife and the pure chalk stream, plus drainage issues, so has lodged an objection. See Ref: 24/03802/PLF.

On the adjacent land to the south there is an out-line planning application for building eight self-build houses. Similar issues arise with this development, though on a smaller scale. Please see: Ref 24/03547/OUT.

Mains Gas replacement installation: Toll Gavel and Butcher Row.

As you'll have observed these works continue. The Society has been keeping in touch with ERYC re progress of the works, and are assured that they have undertakings that the all the disturbed surfaces (including the recently lifted setts in Saturday Market) will be reinstated according to regulations when the works have been completed.

Solar Farm.

As reported in the February Newsletter the plans by Kingfisher Solar (for Orsted) have been open for public consultation. This mega farm, if approved, will have a generation capacity up to approximately 320 MW of solar energy per year. The project includes plans to build the necessary infrastructure to transfer this electricity to the national grid. This proposed Solar Farm would be located in the East Riding of Yorkshire, approximately three miles north of Beverley, to the east of the A164. See the location plan below. It would connect via an underground cable to the Creyke Beck substation situated to the north of Cottingham.

To keep up-to-date on this large plan see:
<https://kingfishersolarfarm.co.uk/news/>



Bank closures and the worrying impact on the Town Centre.

With the impending closure of the NatWest bank in Saturday market adding to the existing closures of the Virgin and Barclays banks, we will have not only a dearth of available banking facilities, but also a huge negative visual impact on the town centre. What is the solution? In the present climate what retailing groups would be interested, maybe conversion to apartments (as with the former Sofa Warehouse) is an option; but how easily could these large office buildings be converted? Certainly imagination and 'deep pockets' will be required. But see a local example of what can be done: the former Lloyds/TSB bank premises in Kingston upon Hull on the corner of George Street and Bond Street: see Hull Daily Mail (October 2024).

<https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/property/latest-luxury-living-hull-new-9674603>

Dick Lidwell

LADYGATE

We commend all members for a careful reading of the Society's latest publication 'A Study of Ladygate' (80 pence from local bookshops). After a brief account of the growth of Beverley in the past 1200 years, it traces the metamorphosis of Ladygate from being the eastern boundary of a larger market area to its present function as a link road. The report goes on to examine each of the buildings surviving in Ladygate, to suggest how they might be restored, renovated or rebuilt, and to indicate their value as units and as a group.

Two items of news about the future of Ladygate are modestly encouraging. The Borough Council have provided in the estimates for money to improve Nos 35, 37 and 39; and at the other end of the street No. 6, long known as 'Yorkshire Farmers', is nearly completed for its new role as Headquarters of the Girl' Venture Corps. It has been said that if buildings of historic or architectural interest are to be preserved, it is often necessary to find a different use for them. For most, survival has to be justified economically, and this calls for ingenuity and imagination in adapting them to some practical use. No 6 Ladygate will be open to the public on the morning of Saturday 8th April from 9.30 to noon in aid of the Corps' funds, and we hope that many members will find time to look in and see this exercise in converting an old building to a new use. There will be coffee, a cake stall, raffle, etc.

Although the present appearance of Ladygate can fairly be described as 'run down', a correspondent has brought to notice its flourishing condition in an earlier period. In 1823 the following occupations were carried on in the street:

<u>Blacksmith:</u>	John Griffin (Senr & Junr)	<u>Inns:</u>	Dog & Duck Globe Lion & Lamb	Geo Sheffield Alice Wilson Jos. Farley
<u>Shoemaker:</u>	John Nicholson			
<u>Butchers:</u>	Edward Barman Jas. Robinson Thos. Wallis Israel Wilson	<u>Milliner:</u>		Ann Brown
		<u>Spirits, Wine & Porter Merchant:</u>		James Wardell
<u>Coal Merchant & Corn Factor:</u>	David Owston	<u>Straw Hat Maker:</u>		Caroline Merritt
<u>Fishmonger:</u>	Hannah Cresser	<u>Tailor & Draper:</u>		Wm. Blyth
<u>China, Glass & Earthenware:</u>	W. G. Watson	<u>Tallow:</u>		Mary Calder
<u>General Store:</u>	Eliz. Fenteman	<u>Chandlers:</u>		Wm. Westerby
<u>Gunsmith:</u>	William Forth	<u>Wood Turner:</u>		William Beevers

An update on Ladygate premises in 2025

Inevitably Ladygate has changed in the last two hundred years, including the demolition of property to create Sow Hill Road, joining New Walkergate to Saturday Market. In comparison with 1823, a list of businesses in Ladygate in February 2025 is shown below:

<u>Stockbrokers:</u>	Redmayne & Bentley (closed)	<u>Public House:</u>	Dog & Duck
<u>Bookshop:</u>	Jacobs Well	<u>Department Store:</u>	Browns
<u>Almshouse:</u>	Beverley Consolidated Charity	<u>Charity:</u>	Jacobs Well
<u>Sports Massage</u>		<u>Furniture:</u>	Ladygate Interiors
<u>Amusement arcade</u>		<u>Hearing Clinic</u>	
<u>Clothing:</u>	Pilgrim Boutique Aura, Sweaty Betty	<u>Vape shop</u>	
<u>Food:</u>	Cafe V Ladygate Tandoori	<u>Art and gifts:</u>	Gallery 21, Pamperhouse

The only common business is the Dog & Duck; many of the properties have reverted to residential occupation.

Tree News. . .

A HUGE Thank you to everyone who came to help plant the Hawthorn on the Archery Field last week. We are hoping that will be end of hedge planting for this year and these new saplings will take hold and grow this summer.

We have also planted a few new 'street trees'. Many of you will remember the Hall family of Hengate, who did so much to save Beverley from destruction in the 1970's (See the Ladygate article). Maggie, Elisabeth and Ivan Hall's youngest daughter, who now lives in Winchester, asked if she could fund 2 trees to be planted in memory of Mrs Pat Byass, another crusader for historic Beverley, and Mrs Beryl Mansfield who also loved this town.

The ERYC Arboriculture Services were extremely helpful and so we planted a Lime cordata on the Manor Road Roundabout, roughly opposite the Manor Rd. Health Centre entrance for Pat, and a Cherry accolade in West Close, Molescroft for Beryl.



Rosie Ryan and Sue McCallum
photo courtesy Dick Lidwell

Several other trees along New Walk and Manor Road have also taken root this horribly cold winter, and more could be coming as and when we get more funds and permissions.

Talk by Colin Bradshaw 'The Women of WW2 in Beverley'

Colin gave an excellent talk about the history of women's role during WW2 and started with an overview of their contribution nationally. In 2005 a statue was erected in Whitehall to celebrate women's contribution to both World Wars, extraordinary that this was the first official recognition.



commons.wikimedia.org - Jose L. Marin

Search for IWW-Women-monument-whitehall-london-uk.jpg

During WW2 6 million women were employed in factories/the Red Cross and Armed Forces roles. By 1945 80% of single women in the UK were involved in war work, and 75% of married women. The main areas were: -

- Red Cross (30%)
- WAAF, ATS, Wrens
- Munitions manufacture
- Nursing
- Aircraft plotting
- Land army

One other area was the 'Perisher Courses', originally a Captain's course for submarines until it was discovered that Wrens were better at maths for both targeting and plotting routes and they soon took over the training from sub captains. Commander Roberts was involved with convoy escort training, and nearly all the planning was completed by women in the Western Approaches. Wrens based in Liverpool, Belfast and Glasgow in the Tactical Unit drew up the lines of attack.

At Bletchley Park women were critical – out of 10,000 employed, 8,000 were women. There was a sub-station in Scarborough, 2 women from Beverley were employed. Pat Davies from Beverley worked in Withernsea for Bletchley Park.

By 1945 44% of the people operating ack-ack guns were women.

Lumberjills. They formed part of the Land Girls and felled trees primarily for pit props to ensure coal mining continued for the war effort. They carried axes, saws and other heavy equipment usually via bicycle. There were 8,000 in Britain and there is a memorial in Dalby Forest.

Air Transport Auxiliary. The job was to transport new aircraft from the factories to airfields. 10% were women, starting with training aircraft and progressing to 4-engined bombers. By the end of the war many women were flying Meteors and Vulcans though very few found employment in civil aviation after the war. Women were responsible for 309,000 aircraft deliveries. Most of the flights were single handed, without a navigator (Lancaster bombers would have a crew of 7 operationally). Sometimes there had to be another person, just to raise and lower the landing gear that the pilot couldn't reach!

Three particularly famous lady pilots were Amy Johnson, Jackie Muggridge and Mary Ellis (who flew 400 Spitfires). Jackie Muggridge flew over 1,000 aircraft and only crashed once. On one occasion a senior RAF officer (male) complained about being flown to a meeting by a woman, and the fact she had an A5 sized book on her lap, not understanding it was the 'Blue Book', an instruction manual about how to fly aircraft! It contained only 2 pages of instructions for each aircraft!

Flying Nightingales. During the D-Day campaign nurses flew to France to collect the seriously wounded needing urgent treatment, they brought home 103,000 servicemen.

Other jobs where women were heavily employed were the Sheffield Steel Works, National Fire Brigade and Wardens – all mostly women. Colin spoke of his female relatives and their war experiences including testing tanks, maintenance of RNLI lifeboats and an Aunt who was bombed out of her home 3 times on Hessle Road.

The Women of Beverley

Armstrong's. This business made munitions and folded parachutes during WW2. By the end of the war 60% of Armstrong's employees were women though they were not provided with any protective clothing or boots.

Hodgsons – made leather boots for the war effort, most made by women.

Beverley shipyard built minesweepers for the war effort, most of the welders were women.

First Aid – the air raid precautions were mostly taught by women.

There were 15 policewomen in Beverley during WW2, supposedly for 'admin duties'; though within days they were carrying out patrols. As there were 40 airfields in the area, on certain days when servicemen came into town they would be very busy!

Another task women undertook was building outside ovens, often from materials from bombed buildings, and cooked and distributed food produced in them. During WW2 the Queen Mother came to Beverley and gave thanks to the women of Beverley at the Regal Cinema (now gone, where Regal Court is today). Minster school in Beverley collected 1,500 books for munitions, all organised by mothers and schoolchildren and were also key to raising funds for the war effort such as the 'Spitfire Fund'. Gordon

Armstrong actually bought a Spitfire on the understanding it could only be used to protect East Yorkshire!

Most Anderson shelters (which arrived in kit form) supplied into Beverley were constructed by women. The Citizens Advice Bureau was purely staffed by women, as was the Food Office in Newbegin, managed by 15 women for distribution of the correct Ration Books (which incidentally had been trialled in 1938 as by then the WD already knew Ration Books would be needed).

Margaret Patton wrote her cookery books on how to best use rationed supplies but was assisted by a lady from Beverley.

The WVS (Women's Voluntary Society) cleared two-thirds of bombed sites in the region. Women from the WVS made items for the war effort at Hodgson's Club (now the Potting Shed) and made toys for the WVS Christmas shop and the Red Cross POW gift shop. The Comfort Fund was established to send gifts to servicemen, and clothes were made for servicemen in the Ice Convoys who mostly had only basic clothing. Local women made beds and sheets for eight new hospital wards in the area. In local hospitals the WVS had 'WVS Hospital Helps', frequently girls of 14 or 15 years of age assisted, there were six in Beverley.

The WVS arranged placements in Beverley for evacuees, and organised the crèches for working mums. They also grew vegetables in former flower beds such as one at Beverley Station.

So a lot going on in Beverley!

Colin summed up with an appeal to purchase cards made in support of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance fund; the Charity he has supported for many years, and which needs £19,000 daily to maintain its airworthiness.

R.F.

Members like to open this link to read a first hand account of a women at work in wartime Beverley

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/02/a4453102.shtml>

A note from the Editor

We are often asked how we decide what events to 'advertise' in the Newsletter.

Of course, the first and second criteria are that we feel they will be of interest to our members and that they have some appropriate link with the nature of the Civic Society. So unfortunately, we won't be advertising every local jumble sale or fund-raising event, however worthy or fascinating they might be. We try to focus on events in and around Beverley and to support other local societies.

Finally, any event must be shared with us before the monthly deadline. The deadline for publication of items is normally approximately eight days before the end of the month, so for the March edition the closing date was 21st February. This gives us time to edit the items presented and for the wonderful Jane and Janet to format them so that you can have the best possible edition every month.

Lesley

The Hidden Waterways Under Beverley's Ancient Lanes

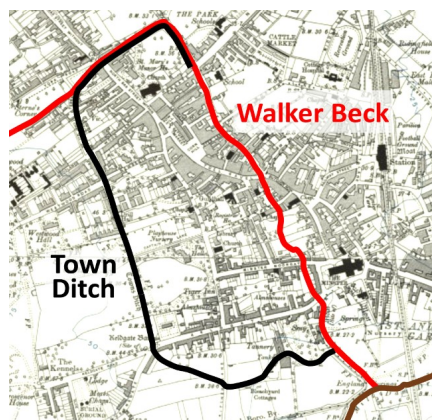
Enjoy listening to Kloskk Tyrer from the Guildhall sharing her knowledge with the fascinating history of Beverley's hidden waterways.

A whole series of items can be accessed on BBC Sounds as Hidden East Yorkshire.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgmy8n4dv9o>



Photos courtesy Kloskk Tyrer



Old map showing Walker Beck and Mill Dam route and Town Ditch



Outfall into Mill Dam Drain

Culture and Heritage Survey

We have received the following from the ERYC. The Executive will be completing the survey but please take the opportunity to have your say to influence the forthcoming strategy from the Council.

Culture and heritage are hugely important to our communities, and this is an opportunity for organisations and practitioners to share their thoughts on a vision for culture and heritage, ensuring that it meets the needs and aspirations of local people and the sector.

Please share your thoughts by completing this quick survey https://consultation.eastriding.gov.uk/s/ER_Culture_and_Heritage/ and help East Riding of Yorkshire Council to gain a variety of feedback

Please feel free to share this amongst your contacts and with family and friends as we hope to learn as much as possible from our participants, including what you would like to see and experience moving forward.

Nick Russell
Local Growth Programme Manager
ERYC

Civic Society Subscriptions

Civic Society subs are now overdue, still at the bargain price of £15.00.

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

Many thanks to all members who have recently paid their subscription

If you would like to pay at the next monthly meeting, this will be on 13th March in St Mary's Church



For your Diary



Of Interest to Our Members

Tuesday 11th March

Hedon History Society

Reuben Chappell, Goole's Maritime Artist

Dr Alex Ombler

2pm at Hedon Methodist Church

£5.00 per visitor

Parking and ramp access.

Wednesday 12th March

The Prioress Tale - A story of Prejudice

Marcus Ramshaw

7-9pm Upstairs Room in the Monks Walk, 19

Highate

Free with donations to Beverley Minster

Wednesday 26th March

Beware of the Sheep! Beverley and the Deserted Medieval Villages of East Yorkshire

Marcus Ramshaw

7-9pm in Beverley Minster Nave

Free with donations to Beverley Minster

Thursday 27th March

Remembering the Reformation

Professor Alexandra Walsham

(Nation Historical Association President)

7.30pm at the Nordic Centry (Danish Church),

Osborne Street, Hull, HU1 2PN

£3 per visitor



Early Music Festival: May 23rd to 25th

This year the festival has a Georgian theme. It will include a talk by Susan Neave on John Courtney and a guided walk of Georgian Beverley by David Neave. Amongst the sponsors for the weekend is the Georgian Society for East Yorkshire.

More detail can be found at: <https://ncem.co.uk/> Search Beverley.

Beverley Civic Society Event

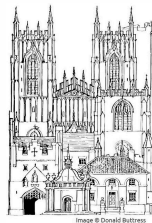
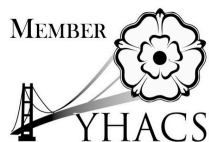
A talk by the team at Laurel Vines on the history behind the creation of their vineyard in Aike



7.30pm, Thursday 13 March 2025

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.