

Newsletter:

February 2026

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

**BEVERLEY
CIVIC
SOCIETY**

Founded 1961

Chairman's Remarks



Photo courtesy Dick Lidwell

Spring can't be far off 🌱

We are looking forward to our 2026 opening talk on Thursday 12th February by Andy Barber, the CEO of Beverley's Charity Housing, on their work. You may know them under their former title of the 'Beverley Consolidated Charity'. Beverley has a proud history of establishing Alms Houses; see Ann Routh's in Keldgate, Whartons in Minster Moorgate, and indeed the Maison de Dieu in Morton Lane, but there are many more, old and new, all over the town.

The Society is an active member of YHACS (Yorkshire and Humberside Association of Civic Societies). It produces a quarterly newsletter: for a good read on the wide ranging activities of Societies throughout this region: see <https://yhacs.org.uk/our-newsletter-society-insight/>. At the time of writing the current Winter edition is not yet on-line, but will be shortly. This includes the report of our recent Old Burial Ground project (published also in this Newsletter).

The Society is at present a member of the National body representing Civic Societies, namely Civic Voice. The Civic Movement needs a means of communicating with National Government on the Government's many and various planning policies which affect not only large scale house building, but also Conservation Areas and the Environment. The organisation is undergoing a thorough re-evaluation of its future, following financial and organisational difficulties.

For up-to-date news see: <https://civicvoice.org.uk/>. The Society awaits the outcome of these negotiations with interest, and will in due course update the membership.

Dick Lidwell

Beverley Civic Society Talks Programme for 2026

All talks take place in St Mary's Church at 7.30pm

12 th February	Andy Barber OBE-Chief Executive of Beverley Housing Charity
12 th March	Alan Deighton-Injured soldiers of Beverley WW1 & WW2
9 th April	Caroline Hawley of Hawley Antiques
14 th May	Margaret Hicks Clarke-The Battle of Flamborough Head
11 th June	Stephen Hunt (EYRC) – Biennial Planning Update
10 th September	The Stamford Bridge Tapestry Project Team
15 th October	AGM- Please note the altered date and location of this event from that previously published
12 th November	The Margaret Powell Lecture - Hannah Willetts-The History of Beverley Art Gallery
10 th December	Colin Bradshaw- Did they really come to Beverley?

Cards with all the dates and details of the Civic Societies events and activities will be available at the February talk



Beverley Civic Society's 'Old Burial Ground' Project

Members may well be aware of the various projects that, over the years, the Society has completed in Coronation Gardens. But over the last couple years it carried out a further project in the Old Burial Ground to the west of the Coronation and Sensory Gardens, and has recently completed the works.

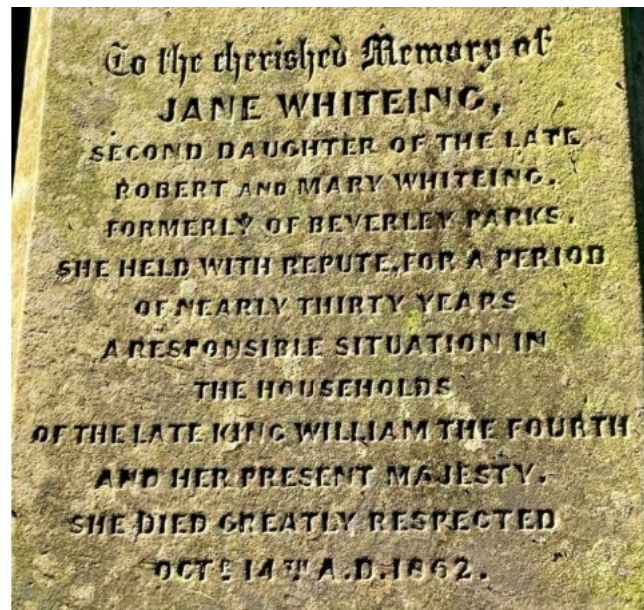
St Mary's has had a history of several graveyards, originally in the Church yard, then across North Bar Within on ground donated in about 1827 by Henry Ellison, the owner of St Mary's Manor opposite. The eastern portion of this land was sold to St. Mary's Church for the Parish burial ground which was in use from 1829 until its closure in 1869, when a new graveyard was established to the north of the town on Molescroft Road. But unusually the smaller western end of the ground was reserved as a private cemetery for the Ellison family and other paying Beverley citizens.

Over the years this western private graveyard had become rather 'sad', so the Civic Society in 2023 decided to apply for a Grant from the 'Do-it-for-East-Yorkshire' fund (DIFEY) for a project to 'open it up' more to the public by carrying out some restoration, but with the aim of retaining the tranquillity of the space. The plan included providing information boards on its unusual history, carrying out suitable natural planting, and to explore the wildlife of this quiet off the beaten track area by installing a night time camera and a bird song recorder. Being a redundant churchyard, it was necessary to obtain permission for the works from both St Mary's and the East Riding Council, in addition to a Faculty from the York Diocese.



A working party planning - courtesy Dick Lidwell

Having successfully applied for the Grant and the Faculty, a working group of many volunteers from the Society and other interested helpers, including Rob Skells, Head Gardener of Bishop Burton College, was established, led by Richard Lancaster and John Pople. Very many working parties took place over the following two years undertaking clearance/tidying up work (though any damaged gravestones, being the responsibility of the Council, were left untouched), followed by the planting of many flowering plants, and two small trees to supplement the well established yews. One small less accessible area was left wild and untouched to further encourage wildlife. Two information boards, researched by Pamela Hopkins, were designed and erected; one telling the story of the Burial Ground, and the other recording information on some of the many burials. These include many individuals who had contributed to the well-being of Beverley, but there are many other interesting burials. Thomas Marten as a fifteen-year-old, fought at the battle of Waterloo; Jane Whiteing was a lady who worked for very many years in the households of King William IV and Queen Victoria. The last recorded burial took place in 1959, and was of an 89 year old woman who joined her two younger brothers who had been buried as babies in 1871 and 1872.



Two notable gravestones - courtesy Dick Lidwell

The night time recording device has revealed a regular fox visitor, a squirrel, a domestic cat with four delicate white feet plus a magpie 'investigating' the camera, but also a fine sparrow hawk devouring a blackbird. We are hoping for more, maybe hedgehogs. At dawn one day in July the bird recording device recorded some 30 different bird calls; remarkable for an urban area, though not far from Beverley's ancient Westwood Common.

As a result of the project many more people are visiting the graveyard, some local people discovering it for the first time. We carried out some random surveys of visitors, many of whom expressed appreciation for the planting and the tranquillity of the grounds, enabling them to escape the bustle of the town centre. Others appreciated learning about the history, with many exploring the gravestones.

The Society is grateful to the many volunteers, to St Mary's, the Diocese and the East Riding Council for their support, and in particular for the awarding of the grant funding from the 'Do It for East Yorkshire' grant scheme.

Dick Lidwell



The two information boards - courtesy *Dick Lidwell*

Planning Matters

The Planning Group:

The Group had its bi-annual meeting with the ERYC Planners. Stephen Hunt has been appointed as 'Interim Director of Planning and Development'. He was not available for the meeting so we met James Chatfield (Development Team Manager) in his place, and Richard Broadhead, the Conservation Officer now titled 'Heritage Manager'. Amongst the many topics discussed were:

- Negotiations with Network Rail and others continue regarding the erection of the new railway bridge to the south following the closure of the England Springs crossing. It is hoped that an application will be submitted in the summer.
- ERYC have produced a Design Guide which is a supplementary document to the adopted Local Plan. It is a substantial document of some 86 pages but well worth a browse when evaluating planning applications and for guidance for any prospective building plans. See this link and illustration below: <https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/east-riding-design-code/>
- The continuing closure (almost a year now) of the station's Public Conveniences. We urged action to pressurise the owners, the Arch Company, to carry out the necessary remedial works.



Stephen Hunt is booked to speak on ERYC Planning Developments at our Public Meeting in St Mary's on Thursday June 11th 2026.

Lord Roberts Road Application Appeal:

The Planning Inspectorate have been involved in the 'paper evaluation' of the appeal but are expected to make an 'on-site' visit. We await hearing the result with great interest.

Saturday Market:

Members will have observed that the works for the permanent pedestrianisation of Saturday Market have commenced and will continue for at least 20 weeks.

Dick Lidwell

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 February 1714, a great wind caused damage in several places, and blew down Richard Stevenson's house in Kilpin, then the fire in the hearth destroyed the remains.

2nd February 1799, Capt Henry Gunter RN was in charge of HMS *Nautilus* when she was wrecked in a storm off Flamborough Head; all the crew survived. She was leading a convoy of 22 merchantmen returning from the Baltic; one of the other ships was also wrecked.

3rd February 1727, John Marshall of Preston left in his will the income from land rents, to be used to buy 6 white loaves, given to the poor in Preston every Sunday. Marshall Avenue in the village is named after him.

4th February 1634, William Kitching, 39, of Little Driffield, and 9 other men, were hanged at York for rioting at Hull about corn, for demolishing the dwellinghouse of Edward Cooper, and for stealing clothes. None of those convicted were from Hull.

5th February 1538, widow Mabel Brygge, 32, servant of Holmpton, was examined by an enquiry headed by Sir Ralph Ellerker. She was alleged to have carried out a 'black fast' with the aim of injuring King Henry VIII and the Duke of Norfolk, in relation to the King's divorce and the Reformation. She was executed at York, along with John Dobson, vicar of Muston, and John Ainsworth, priest, who had also spoken out against the royal supremacy and Act of Succession.

6th February 1611, Stephen Taylor, steward of the household and receiver-general at Londesborough House, home of the Earl of Cumberland, bought a barrel of white herrings from Hull merchant Mr Foddle. He also bought sea fish landed at Scarborough and Carlisle, but had bought eels from Thomas Williamson of Hull the previous December.

7th February 1519, John Gilson, a gentleman of Garton claimed the sanctuary of St John's church, Beverley, for debt. It is not known whether this was Garton on the Wolds or Garton in Holderness.

9th February 1828, Richard Arthur Worsnop of Howden Hall, Howden, recorded in his diary the celebrations for the first street lighting in the town. Church bells rang, and a band paraded round the streets. The lamps and stands were acquired second-hand from Doncaster, which had just installed gas lighting.

9th February 1896, 34 degrees of frost were recorded in Cottingham. (34 degrees of frost = -2degF = -19deg C)

10th February 1801, Sir Samuel Standidge, aged 75, died at Thorngumbald. He was born at Bridlington, and at age 19 was taken prisoner by privateers and taken to Rhode Island. Later in life he traded goods with Rhode Island and bought lands in Holderness, building New York Farm, Preston, to mark his financial success in New York. He is credited with restarting the Hull whaling industry, acting as master of his own whaler. He was Sheriff of Hull, Mayor, and warden of Hull Trinity House 5 times. His memorial is in St Mary's Lowgate, Hull.

11th February 1657, Thomas Cowlam, labourer, and Jane Millington were married in a private alehouse at Spaldington by Robert Browne, vicar of Eastrington.

12th February 1519, tailor William Bowman of Sewerby claimed sanctuary in Flamborough parish church after assaulting William Johnson. At a coroner's inquest at Bridlington 2 days later, the jurors reported that Bowman assaulted and killed Johnson with a staff on the King's road between Sewerby and Bridlington, then fled to 'Flaynburgh'. The King's Bench declared Bowman an outlaw on the 27th December 1519.

12th February 1556, in evidence given in court at York, Thomas Carter of Helperthorpe, 40, herdsman, made the first recorded reference to England's oldest horse race, Kiplingcotes Derby.

15th February 1793, a contemporary report said a horseman galloped into Hull with urgent news that men had landed near Patrington from a privateer. Nervous of the risk of French invasion, part of the Corps of Invalids stationed at the Citadel and several volunteer seamen were immediately dispatched to meet the enemy. A 2nd messenger met them on the road near Hedon, and informed them that instead of French enemies, those who had landed were the crews of several colliers, who had left their ships to avoid the press gang. HM Sloop of War, *The Queen*, was lying at anchor in the Humber.

16th February 1821, Vincent Knowles Walker, 48, battered, stabbed and kicked to death Lydia Wills White, on her doorstep at 37 Nile Street, Hull. She was sheltering her friend Mrs Walker, who had separated from her drunkard, violent husband. Walker was hanged in Hull Hedon Road Gaol.

17th February 1821, Robert Sharp junior, an unemployed bricklayer's labourer from Hull, gave evidence in the hearing of a petition in the House of Commons. Colonel John Baillie, MP for Hedon, was accused of bribery and corruption in the 1820 election. Sharp claimed to have spent the 2 weeks prior to election day at the Charles Saunders Inn (now the Shakespeare), eating and drinking at the expense of the candidate and finally, on election day, receiving 2 guineas from James Iveson, Baillie's agent, for making himself 'generally useful'. William Mason also gave evidence of being offered 12 guineas by James Iveson, political agent for Col John Baillie, if he would vote for him. Baillie's election was confirmed.

18th February 1537, Sir Francis Bigod entered Beverley with 3-400 men on the renewed Pilgrimage of Grace.

18th February 1620, The King's Players performed 5 plays at Londesborough House over a 4-day period at Shrovetide, for the Earl and Countess of Cumberland. The Cliffords regularly had entertainment at the house, hosting 13 different

companies of players, and many musicians. Shakespeare had been the company's leading playwright (he died in 1613).

20th February 1889, 'Riding the stang' took place in Hedon, for the 3rd consecutive night, for a man who beat his wife; a procession sang, shouted, hit pans, banged drums and whistled and finally burned the man's effigy on Market Hill. Also known as charivari, skimmington, or rough music in other areas.

21st February 1651, George Holroyd, vicar of Foston, was tried at York Castle and imprisoned for uttering a seditious sermon; he had preached against bloodshed on a day of thanksgiving for military and naval successes.

21st February 1947, 9 Jackson's bread delivery lorries were trapped in a snowdrift overnight on Arras Hill, Market Weighton. They were dug out by colleagues, who had to walk miles to reach them. The East Riding Council reported spending £3,000 a day for the Army to keep the roads open and get supplies to villages cut off by snow.

24th February 1814, John Taylor, aged 62, of Soffham Farm, Sutton-on-Hull, was in Chamberlain Road, on his way home from Hull, when he was shot by a man who leapt out from the hedge, robbed him of £30 and ran off. Taylor died a week later, but had identified his assailant as James Forbes, an Irishman. Forbes was tried at York but acquitted despite being identified, for lack of corroborating evidence.

26th February 1381, Archbishop of York Alexander Neville announced his intention to visit Beverley, provoking a mass walk-out of Beverley clergy, most going to Lincoln or London. Neville replaced them with Vicars Choral from York but failed in his power struggle.

26th February 1869, Christopher Sykes, MP for the East Riding of Yorkshire, moved the Bill which later in the year became the Sea Birds Preservation Act, supported by Rev HF Barnes-Lawrence of Bridlington. Up to 232,000 seabirds and eggs were killed, often shot for sport, each breeding season. This earned Sykes the nickname 'The Gulls' Friend'.

27th February 1941, 2 bombs landed in Hotham village, throwing the owner, Colonel Clitherow, into the fireplace. No other injuries are recorded. North Cave church lost its East window in the blast.

28th February 1823, the conditions of employment of the Matron of the workhouse at Nafferton recorded she was paid 5 guineas a year, plus 5 chaldrons of coals and half a load of whins; her tasks included mending clothes and laundry. There was also a Workhouse Master. (Nafferton was included in the Driffeld Poor Law Union in 1836).



For your Diary



Of Interest to Our Members

10th January - 14th March

Goole -Built -The story of the Goole Shipyard

Goole Museum

For opening times see East Riding Museums website

Wednesday 4th February

Cottingham Local History Society

The Pavement that walked (and a few that didn't)

Michele Lewis

7.45 - 9.15pm

Cottingham Civic Hall, Market Green

Members £2.00, Non Members £4.00

Thursday 5th February

The Mystery Plays of York and Wakefield

Marcus Ramshaw

7.00pm - 9.30pm

Upstairs room in The Monk's Walk, Highgate

Admission free. Suggested donation £5.00 with profits to Beverley Minster

Monday 9th February

Hull Civic Society

History and Mystery of Spurn Head

Godfrey Holmes

7.30pm

Holiday Inn Express, Ferensway

Friday 20th February

Barton Civic Society

Internetty - A Barton Success story

Internetty

7.30pm

Joseph Wright Hall, Queen's Street

Wednesday 25th February

Margaret of Beverley and the 3rd Crusade

How a woman of Beverley fought Jerusalem

Beverley Minster nave

Marcus Ramshaw

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Admission free. Suggested donation £5.00 with profits to Beverley Minster

Thursday 26th February

Hull and East Riding Historical Association

Fidel Castro Beatnik Revolutionary

Professor Simon Hall, Leeds University

7.30pm

Nordic Centre (Danish Church), Osborne Street, Hull

New Film “Portrait of Two Pastures” Premieres at Beverley Guildhall

Following the success of the popular film featuring Beverley Westwood in 2024, Beverley Guildhall’s Kloskk Tyrer returns with a new work titled “Portrait of Two Pastures”, exploring the lesser-known landscapes of Figham and Swinemoor on the eastern side of Beverley.

eastridingmuseums.co.uk



EAST RIDING
MUSEUMS



Portraits of two pastures
Artistic films of Figham and Swinemoor

4 February to 5 June 2026

Beverley Guildhall
Register Square, Beverley, HU17 9XX

Free admission

Guildhall opening times:
Weds (to 30 Apr) 10am-1pm
Weds (from 1 May) 10am-4pm
Fridays 10am-4pm



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



The film will be showing at the Beverley Guildhall from 4th February to 5th June, offering visitors a unique blend of contemporary footage with nostalgic memories from Beverley people. Kloskk said, “Figham and Swinemoor are not as well-known as Westwood, and I hope this 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 will play on a continuous loop. No booking is required - visitors are welcome to drop in and stay as long as they wish.

Venue Details: Beverley Guildhall, Register Square (off Cross Street)

Opening Hours: Wednesdays: 10am–1pm (until 30 April), then 10am–4pm (from 2 May)

Fridays: 10am–4pm

Admission: Free



Brickie Bridge on Swinemoor



Old sludge pits on Figham



All images courtesy Kloskk Tyrer

Two Pastures at the Guildhall:

In addition to the exhibition members might like to watch the film they may previously have missed about Westwood. It's on Youtube and the link is here: <https://www.youtube.com>

....and search for: **Beverley Westwood Pasture – Seasons and Memories**



The Georgian Society for East Yorkshire invites members of Beverley Civic Society to the following lecture to be held at St Mary's Church Hall, Beverley at 2.45 pm on Saturday 21 February 2026:

Renaissance at Castle Howard: The Tapestry Room

Lecture by Francis Terry of Francis Terry and Associates, based in Colchester, one of the country's leading firms designing new-build and restoring country houses and other buildings in the classical Georgian style.

The Tapestry Drawing Room at Castle Howard is a completely new architectural treatment to a room which was destroyed by fire in 1940. The room had been left as an empty shell of charred stonework ever since. Francis Terry and Associates were given the brief to restore the room to what Vanbrugh would have done and incorporate the four Vanderbank tapestries which were designed and woven for the room in 1706. Care has been taken to use traditional materials and techniques where possible. All architectural elements of the project were hand drawn by Francis Terry at full size. Everything in the room, apart from the antiques, paintings, and tapestries, was made in the UK. The crafts used for this room include: – hand carved timber classical ornament, traditional run plasterwork, scagliola manufacture and gilding. The craftsmanship is truly outstanding, and it is a joy to see that the UK is still a world leader in these fields.

Doors open at 2.30 pm (before which the Georgian Society will be holding its AGM)

GSEY members free – Non-members £5

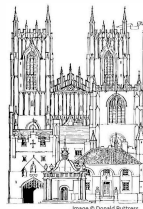
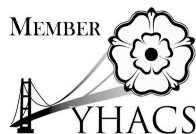
Booking essential, if you would like to attend, please email info@gsey.org.uk by 14 February 2026. Payment to be made by bank transfer or cash at the door.

Beverley Civic Society Event

The work of the Beverley Housing Charity
A talk by Andy Barber OBE



7.30pm, Thursday 12 February 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.