

Newsletter:

October 2025

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

**BEVERLEY
CIVIC
SOCIETY**

Founded 1961

Chairman's Remarks



How privileged we are to see our two great Listed churches every day, and especially when nature constantly provides us with new perspectives. Many comment on the distant views when approaching down over Westwood; a homecoming which must have been appreciated over the centuries, including also those seeking sanctuary. Whilst thinking about our churches I have been reminded of King Athelstan, who tradition has it, stopped at Beverley on his way north in c.934, so that he could pray for success in battle at the shrine of St John of Beverley. Of course he also features in the Chancel ceiling of St Mary's images of our Saxon kings:

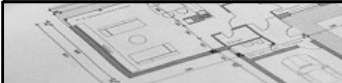


But this year is special too as he was crowned at Kingston-upon-Thames on the 4th September 925 as '*Rex Anglorum* - King of the English'. So the first king of the English, and there was much celebration at Kingston-upon-Thames to mark the occasion, including the naming of a South Western Region locomotive in his honour, bringing him into the 21st century mind.



Dick Lidwell

Photos by Mike Farrimond and Dick Lidwell



Planning Matters



Lord Roberts Road:

Members may remember that the applicant appealed the refusal. The Planning Inspectorate are considering it by written submission, not a public hearing, so we hope to hear the outcome relatively soon.

Land South of 15 Minster Moorgate:

This application has been refused. We await any possible further news.

Northern Mains Gas works:

Members will have noted that the reinstatement works have re-commenced causing some disruption to the pedestrian areas, but hopefully they will be completed soon and the 'depot of materials' will depart from Register Square; at last.

The Beverley Friary:

Negotiations continue between ERYC (the owners) and a potential lessee following the YHA surrendering their tenancy in August. Clearly we hope for a speedy resolution so the future of this highly important historic building is secured.

It was open for our Heritage Open Days; attracting, as usual, very many visitors.

Beverley Station Public Conveniences:

The Society in conjunction with our Vice President and MP, Graham Stuart, and ERYC Estates continue to press for the repairs to be done by the Arch Company, to enable these essential conveniences to be reopened to the public. It is a long walk for disembarking rail passengers to the next available conveniences...not a great advert for Beverley and its ever increasing number of visitors.

Jocks Lodge Road Works:

For the latest news (September 2025) on these important and long drawn out road works, please see this weblink produced by the contractor Graham and ERYC:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKERYC/bulletins/3ee5e1b>

One can always email the contractor with any queries, and to sign up to receive these monthly updates:

civilscustomerrelations@graham.co.uk

Dick Lidwell

heritage open days 2025

Despite the sometimes inclement weather, Heritage Open Days have gone well and visitors have been very complimentary about the venues on offer. The success of the event is down to the owners of the properties and the many volunteers who help to meet and greet the visitors.

Particular thanks go to Mr and Mrs Sweeney, Richard Stott, Alison Milner and Nancy Blackburn who all opened their homes to the public.

A big thank you must also go to Judith Smith and her volunteers for their tireless work in the Secret Garden.

Richard Stott, who opened the Old Savings Bank on Lairgate, said "It was a really great weekend and I loved it! I couldn't have done it without the volunteers and they were all great and really helpful and supportive. I think we had 88 visitors on Saturday and 100 on Sunday."

Newbegin House proved very attractive with 477 visitors. To see a video of the event Google "Newbegin House on Youtube".

Civic Society members provided many of the volunteers this year but still not enough to cover all the venues. The shortfall was partially covered by neighbours and friends.

All the walks and talks were fully booked, in fact some could have been filled many times.

This year we produced 8000 brochures which have proved very popular. Thanks go to EYRC, Beverley Town Council, Yorkshire Wolds Heritage Trust and the Georgian Society of East Yorkshire who provided funding.

This is an event that could not happen without the support of many people who we thank profusely for their time and effort.



Photos courtesy *Mike Farrimond*

Little Tranby: More Connections with Hull's Wilson Shipping Line

Last month's article on the Golf House Clock, explained how it had originally been on a Racing Stables Building belonging to Arthur Wilson of Tranby Croft, third generation ship owner of Hull's Wilson Shipping line. Coincidentally about the same time I bought an old postcard showing 'Little Tranby, Beverley'. I knew nothing about 'Little Tranby' save that the name reminded me of Tranby Croft, the Wilson family home in Hull, and the scene of a famous card cheating scandal, which began when the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, was a house guest there; and ended with the Prince being summoned to give evidence at the Royal Courts of Justice in 1891. A Google search, however,



Little Tranby postcard - courtesy Jane Bowen

established that Little Tranby was the large red brick house fronting on to the Hurn, visible as one descends York Road, towards Beverley. Access is from Seven Corners Lane, and a stroll along the lane established that the once very large house - 27 rooms in the 1921 census, has now been divided and is several separate properties. The original house, then known as York Lodge, had been built in 1869, but by 1900 was owned Kenneth Wilson, younger brother of Arthur. He is said to have named it 'Little Tranby' as a tribute to his childhood family home which he loved dearly, though 'little' it certainly was not. Like other residents on the edge of Westwood and the Hurn, cattle grazing presented a challenge. In January 1910, he approached the Council for permission to erect additional railings from his entrance gate to the road 'as it was a present difficulty to keep stock out of his garden'. The same year he put out an appeal to clear the existing £600 debt on St. Mary's church organ. He and his brother would contribute £200, provided the townspeople raised the remaining £400. The year ended with the family entertaining Prince Arthur of Connaught, Queen Victoria's grandson.

A third Wilson son, Clive, is also linked to Beverley. Clive was the youngest of the family and a noted sportsman. He had seen service in the Boer War, where he won the DSO. When he returned to England, he bought St. Mary's House in Hengate, to which he brought his Italian wife Elvira, after their marriage in 1907. Five years later, disaster struck - in the early hours of Saturday morning a fire broke out in the three storey house. It was a neighbour who first saw the fire and summoned help, but Clive, his family and servants had retired early, and it was only with difficulty that they could be roused. Fortunately all escaped without harm, and were able to seek refuge at the *Beverley Arms*, although the servants, who slept in the attics, could not escape downstairs due to the smoke and flames. Instead they had to climb on to the roof and wait there until long ladders could be found to bring them down. James Elwell (father of Fred) was among those who helped salvage furniture and other belongings for the family. Eighteen years earlier, Elwell himself had been badly burned as a result of a gas explosion in his own home, and now, aged 76, it says much for him that in the middle of the night he came to the aid of his neighbour, in circumstances which must have brought back horrific memories.



Photo courtesy Janet Ward

The next day Kenneth brought Clive and his family to join him at Little Tranby. The following year, as he and his wife wished to move to the London area and the brighter social scene, Kenneth sold the property to his brother. Clive and his family settled comfortably into life at Little Tranby and he became Master of the Holderness Hunt. He planned to gift the Hengate house land to the town for a public park but the outbreak of World War I delayed this. Clive re-enlisted in the East Yorkshire Yeomanry, rising in rank from Captain to Major, but was invalided out in 1916.

When the war ended, Clive revised his plans for a public park; he saw to it that the Beverley War Memorial was built there in the centre of the grounds, and arranged for the landscaping of the gardens. Sadly, he never saw the Memorial Gardens fully developed, as unexpectedly, he died at home, in his sleep in January 1921.



Major Clive Wilson D.S.O.

Jane Bowen - *Daily Mirror* 19 January 1921



Photo courtesy *Janet Ward*

The plaque to Clive Wilson is on the gable end of the house in Hengate.



Photo courtesy *Janet Ward*

Colin Bradshaw – Flight Over Beverley 1925 to 2021

Colin gave a fascinating talk centred on aerial photography which demonstrated the changes Beverley has seen over this period.

The earliest photos were taken from a Sopwith biplane with handheld cameras. A photo of Saturday Market from 1925 showed it to be almost empty of cars, and showed the slum areas nearby. In 1925 Beverley was quite an industrial centre, the photos showed the Sow Hill Buildings and *The Globe Inn*, both of which were later demolished. When a circus came to Beverley the animals (including elephants) were frequently housed in the yards behind, and also in the grounds of the *Beverley Arms* which once extended right up to Westwood. The last circus to be held in the *Beverley Arms'* grounds was in 1883.

Photos from 1928 were from well before the bus station was built and showed poor housing conditions behind the *Beverley Arms* and along Lairgate – only 1 in 4 homes had a toilet. Photos of Dyer Lane from 1956 showed many houses that were demolished soon after. In the 1970s and 1980s archaeology in Dyer Lane revealed dyeing pits, which remain under modern buildings.

1967 photos showed much of the industries that still existed in Beverley. By then Wylies Road had been built, which necessitated the demolition of the original Conservative Club in the late 1960s, it had been there since 1926. At that time there had been plans to demolish or relocate the North Bar – and the BCS assisted in preventing that plan to reach fruition. The location of the former *Admiral Duncan Inn* was shown, near the Minster, which had been made famous by a murder in 1847. Photos of the Minster showed Hall Garth, bequeathed to the Minster to prevent development. The *Admiral Duncan Inn*, farm and associated buildings had been demolished and it remains an open space.

After WW2 there was a great need for housing. Hull had 98% of domestic housing damaged or destroyed. In 1947, many houses were built in Beverley to re-home families after the war. Council houses and pre-fabs were built at Sigston Road and were designed to last 10 years. In literature of the time new build bungalows were described as 'well arranged' and the modest kitchens described as a 'little palace!' Photos of Beckside in 1948 showed the huge hangar that had been relocated from Leconfield RAF base for use as part of Hodgson's Tannery. Opposite the Tannery were market gardens. Hodgsons was one of the biggest tanneries in Western Europe, a huge employer in Beverley. Shipbuilding on the River Hull was still important, between 1931-1956 over 1,000 ships were built. 1 out of every 5 minesweepers built during the war came from Beverley. The *Arctic Corsair*, now in Hull, was built in Beverley. The Grovehill shipyard built mostly trawlers, all side launched. 1970s photos of the Beck showed the BOCM animal feeds factory. It also showed the huge gas cylinders, a remainder from Malam's Gas Works opposite, which had been founded in 1828. The gasworks archway is all that remains today. By the early 1980s most of the industry at the Beck was replaced by housing. Photos from 2022 showed just how much the River Hull has changed. All industry is now light industry.

Closer to town, 1965 photos showed the extent of the buildings near the railway station. The Great Yorkshire Show came to Beverley in 1837 and 1909, when it was a travelling show, and many animals travelled via the railway to Beverley. In 1909, 30,000 people came to Beverley to see it.

Armstrong's factory in the 1960s. The factory employed 4,500 and many women remained at the factory who had started during WW2. In 1911, Gordon Armstrong was one of the first people to fly, having built an aircraft from his small factory at St Mary's Arcade near the North Bar. In 1912 he flew his aircraft from Westwood, though it only flew for 100 metres, and the Pasture Masters banned any future flights! The Friary was almost destroyed, having been swallowed up by the factory. Outside East Riding College there are details in the bricks on the ground showing just how far the Friary Church extended.

The petrol station on Eastgate, from 1918. The pump remains, originally the petrol was stored under the house and under the road – it must have been very dangerous!

Photos from the 1950s showed the Cattle Market still trading, replaced by Tesco in 2001. In the early 1960s there was no Model Farm or Industrial Estates; by 1968 they were all built but there were very few cars! Pigs from the Cattle Market would frequently escape and end up in Saturday Market. There was a 2d fine for the owner of any that were recovered.

1980s views from St Mary's Church showed the new bus station that had been built in 1978. This showed that St Mary's is at a strange angle, not exactly East/West as most churches are, but when built in 1180, the Church lined up with magnetic North.

Other photos showed the Cottage Hospital, built in 1888, the only hospital in Beverley at the time. Doctors were based near the Guildhall, which was where the dispensary once was. Leconfield Barracks was shown when it was still an RAF base housing Lockheed Lightning aircraft.

In summary, the photos clearly demonstrated how Beverley had changed from an important industrial town in 1925 with a population of 13,000 to a population of 30,000 by 2021 and a centre for light industry, local government, commuters and residents.

The talk was in support of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance for which Colin is an ambassador.

R.F.



For your Diary



Of Interest to Our Members

Saturday 4 October 2025

Bird Walk with Africa Gomez

10.00 - lasting 1 hour

Meet at the Pearson Park bandstand 5 minutes before the walk

Free

Saturday 11 October 2025

Guided history and tree walk

10.00 – lasting up to 90 minutes

Oak Road Playing Fields, Eastern End, Beresford Avenue entrance

Free

Thursday 16 October 2025

Hull and East Riding Historical Association

Rolls Royce Electric car – 125 years in the making

Duncan Feetham

7.30pm to 9.00 pm

The Nordic Centre, Osborne Street

Visitors £3.00

Wednesday 29 October 2025

The Wheel of Fortune: Prosperity and Pestilence: Beverley from 1296-1415

Marcus Ramshaw

5.00pm to 7.00pm

Beverley Minster Nave

Admission Free - £5 suggested donation, profits to Beverley Minster

Civic Society Subscriptions

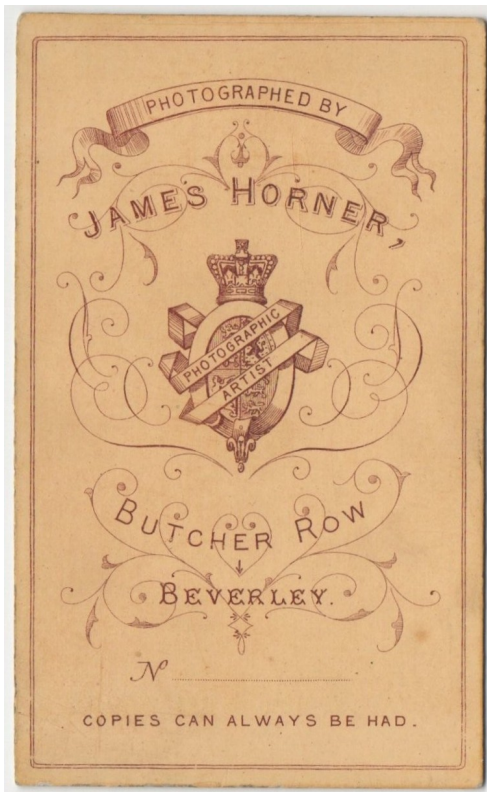
Civic Society subs are now due. Unfortunately, we have had to raise our subscription for the first time in many years to £20.00 but that is still a bargain! We thank those members who have already renewed their subscription.

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

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

Sort code 05-02-37
Account 27597439

If you would like to pay at the next monthly meeting, this will be at the AGM on 9th October in St Mary's Church.



Another early Beverley photographer - by any chance does anyone recognise the fine looking lady? - Carte de Visite courtesy of *Jane Bowen*

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Beverley and District Civic Society to be held at 7:30pm on **Thursday 9th October 2025** in St Mary's Church, Beverley.

AGENDA

- 1) Numbers Attending
- 2) Apologies for Absence
- 3) Minutes of the 2024 AGM
- 4) Matters Arising
- 5) To receive the Executive Committee's reports
 - 5.1) Chairman's Report
 - 5.2) Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements up to 30th September 2025
 - 5.3) Secretary's Report
 - 5.4) Membership Secretary's Report
- 6) To elect the Officers of the Society and Members of the Executive Committee for 2025-26
- 7) Any Other Business

The Executive Committee 2024/25

Officers

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

Members of the Executive

The Members of the Executive during 2024/25 were: -

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

NOTES:

- i. *Co-opted members have an advisory and non-voting role. There were no co-opted members in this year.
- ii. The following Members are due to retire but are eligible to be re-elected:
Rosie Ryan

DISCLAIMER

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