

# Newsletter:

## February 2025

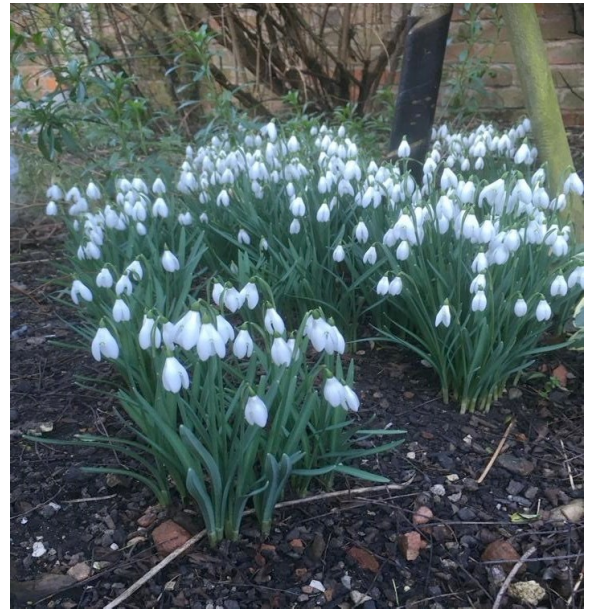
<https://www.beverleycivicsociety.com/>



### Chairman's Remarks

The darkest days are coming to an end. Although it is as yet a long time before the Spring Equinox, we are looking forward to the joys of longer days and new plant life.

As you'll know we deleted our January Public meeting from the calendar to avoid having to come out on a cold night. But please note that our next talk takes place on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**...a week earlier than normal as the Church was unavailable for our usual second Thursday of the month. At that meeting your membership cards will be available at the reception desk with the full talks programme for this year, details of which are also available on our 'developing' website.



Is Spring just around the corner?

For some odd reason, passing years? I was musing about what significant development happened in Beverley ten years ago in 2015, and remembered that the Burton's shop became Carluccios and Daniella Draper. The Society felt that the plans failed to respect the integrity of the nationally recognised Burton's 1930s design, which contributed significantly to the Conservation Area, and made recommendations to retain many of these classic features. Some of these were achieved - to quote from the Society's final submission: 'We are very pleased to see the retention and refurbishment of several distinctive features, namely: the black granite risers and pilasters, the restored brass 'Burton' signs within the risers, and the plinths with the foundation names'. We trust that the Carluccios' aficionados, and passers-by continue to observe these lovely features and toast this little success of the Society!



Images courtesy Dick Lidwell

Of course, at the other end of town, the Flemingate Centre opened in December; a very different story, but its design gives a great views of our Minster.

*Dick Lidwell*

## John Edward Champney

In December 2024 the Treasure House in Beverley was reopened, the building having been extended and refurbished, and the garden landscaped. It now houses not only the library, art gallery, archives, museum, tourist information centre, meeting rooms and cafe but also a customer service centre and local register office. The building also has a new name: the Champney Treasure House, a tribute to one of Beverley's great benefactors.

In September 1902 the Mayor of Beverley informed the Council that a 'gentleman' had offered to build and equip a Free Library for the Borough. The benefactor was John Edward Champney, born in Beverley in 1846. Although he had grown up in the town (his father was a local solicitor) Champney's close links with Beverley had ended when his mother moved to Scarborough following the death of his father in 1871. In 1902 he was living in the south of England but must have retained some affection for his birthplace to make such a generous offer. It is said that a chance meeting abroad with Alderman James Elwell, the Beverley woodcarver (father of the painter Fred Elwell), steered his thoughts in this direction.

A condition of the gift was that the town should provide the site. In 1903 the Town Council chose a block of land on the south side of the western section of Well Lane (now Champney Road). This was part of the estate of the late Sir James Walker of Lairgate Hall; in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century it had been used by George and William Tindall as commercial nursery gardens and was still under cultivation. Champney approved the site, commenting in a letter to the Town Clerk 'it seems to me a very good one, and demands a good building'. This he felt should be 'brick with stone or carved brick mouldings ... solidly-built and well-planned ... so as to save cost in maintenance hereafter', and stipulated that the final choice of architect and design should be his. He would also provide the furnishings. The building would be 'for the use of the public as a Library, Art Gallery or Museum, in perpetuity ....'. Champney also insisted that 'sufficient land be left at the rear for enlargement, as an additional building may be required in the future, and this I hope hereafter to provide'.

Champney chose a little-known London architect, John Cash, to design a building in what is loosely termed the 'Queen Anne' style. The choice of design was surely influenced by the nearby County Hall, built for the East Riding County Council, in a very similar style, by Smith and Brodrick 1890-1. The building work was completed in the summer of 1906. The reading room or newsroom was officially opened on 8<sup>th</sup> August of that year, the lending library was opened to the public on 9 February 1907 and the art gallery in 1910.

When John Champney drew up his will in 1926 he left his extensive collection of books (as well as 20 paintings) to the Beverley library 'to be kept together as a reference library in a separate room to be erected as hereinafter provided in a similar manner to the Dyce and Forster Libraries at the South Kensington Museum.' He recognised that this would mean extending the existing library building, and so earmarked the sum of £13,000 of which his trustees were to lay out such a portion as they saw fit for this purpose. This was to be known as the 'Champney Reference Library'. It was to be built either on land belonging to the Corporation or on part of the land (comprising about one acre and adjacent to the library) purchased by Champney with this in mind, or on both. The remainder of the land was to be converted into a public garden. In the event Champney decided to pay for the extension to be built during his lifetime. It was designed by John Cash's son Herbert, and completed in 1928, a year before Champney's death.

When the Treasure House was opened in 2007, incorporating the existing library and art gallery, the reference collection remained in the room at the west end built for that purpose in 1928. As part of the recent changes the collection has been moved elsewhere in the building, perhaps a reflection of the

increasing use of the internet for research purposes. The former reference library has become the register office, but many of its original fittings have been retained.

*Susan Neave*

Much of this article is drawn directly from Susan & David Neave 'The Building of Beverley Library and Art Gallery' in Gerardine Mulcahy (ed.) *Beverley's Benefactor: John Edward Champney (1846-1929)*, East Riding of Yorkshire Council Archives and Local Studies and Museum Services, 2010.

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## From the Archive

Society members may have noticed that we are currently creating a Newsletter Archive on the Society's website. This is a work in progress with the last 3 years currently available.

To celebrate the archive we will, in the next few editions of the Newsletter, be publishing articles from the past.

These will all make reference to Beverley's rich architectural past. The topic has been chosen because Heritage Open Days 2025 (September 12<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>) have the theme of architecture and there is much to enjoy, explore and rediscover in our beautiful town. If you would like to discover more about Heritage Open Days 2025, please click on this link

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/get-involved/theme-architecture.html>

We hope you enjoy revisiting or reading for the first time these fascinating articles.

## From our Archive . . . Newsletter Summer 1998

### Goodbye to the Regal

Well, The Regal is no more, or almost no more. The unlovely hulk, once Beverley's most ambitious place of entertainment, is taking some removing. Its fate, uncertain for so long, is now decided: Its end, flats and a (much needed?) public house will replace it which had long seemed inevitable even to the hardline conservationist, has been little mourned but it deserves some record in its own right and as an illustration of recurring conservation issues.

This "mediocre yet evocative period piece" \*, continued a tradition of social functions on this site begun in the 1760s when John Carr of York, whose surviving work includes Everingham Hall and the interiors of Fairfax House, designed a neat brick building which echoed the form of the grander Norwood House, a satisfying composition.

A large room, 50ft. by 27ft., for assemblies and two smaller rooms for tea and cards met the needs of the town's "season" but by the 1830s were insufficient and the Hull architect H. F. Lockwood designed an ornate and imposing room, 88ft. by 53ft. and a remarkable 41ft high, which opened in 1840 as the Beverley and East Riding Public Rooms.

To the balls, card parties and dinners were added commercial and industrial exhibitions, club and society meetings and entertainments which must have surprised and delighted: a panorama of the Crimean War, roller skating and, in 1897, Beverley's first moving picture show. But in 1934 the Assembly Rooms were sold. The next year Carr's building was demolished and replaced by a ticket office, foyer and restaurant whilst the large hall, stripped of its decorations, became the cinema auditorium with, by the addition of a new floor, a ballroom above.

Opened with a flourish in 1936 with "The Thirty-Nine Steps", its future must have seemed bright but, although available to a few only, television, which in the sixties would end regular film shows in the town, had arrived and only the war years during which cinemas thrived delayed its expansion. I suspect that for only half of its sixty-year life can it have been profitable. I took my three pennies to the children's Saturday matinees (boring) and went briefly to a dancing class (very boring). But I loved the cinema and would have gone every night - comfort here perhaps for parents of today's pop-obsessed teenagers.

After the films ended came Bingo, financial troubles and changes of ownership. The only entertainment lay in the plans for its refurbishment, ever more ambitious, expensive and fantastic. Although I remember crying as I saw the Assembly Rooms demolished, I do not claim pre-vision but with time my conviction that this has been one of the town's most serious social and cultural losses has strengthened. The vacuum it left was soon recognised and in the immediate post war years an attempt to fill it was made by the conversion of the redundant Anglican Chapel of St. John into the Memorial Hall.

Sadly, this has never been adequately funded and able to fulfil its potential although it remains indispensable. We still need a flexible range of small rooms comparable to the best village halls.

The Regal's setting has changed dramatically in its sixty years. Photographs and memory record the wide Norwood junction with three narrow streets and buildings from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century. Most have been swept away in the cause of the traffic flow. The junction now is a horror: cars rule, pedestrians come nowhere and aesthetically it's a mess. The ill kept area of trees and paving (not a local authority responsibility I believe) adds to the gloom whilst traffic still streams down Hengate. This Society's concern over the effects of these changes has been fully justified. Short term gain - long term loss.

Acknowledgements, - \*David Neave in Pevsner and Neave "Yorkshire and the East Riding".  
An excellent account of the Assembly Rooms is contained in "Beverley Within in mid-Victorian Times" by Jan Crowther.

*Courtesy.*



Copyright Rob Simson

With thanks to Kloskk Tyrer and East Riding Archives

Sometimes January can be a quiet month for planning applications but there is always activity on existing ones, and some pending developments.

### **Lord Roberts Road Development: Ref: 22/03203/PLF**

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January The Eastern Area Planning Sub- Committee refused this application on a number of grounds, but to quote one section of the 'Notice of Decision':

*By reason of its plain appearance and simplistic design, the proposal is considered to be out of keeping with the character of the surrounding area, does not sufficiently reflect the detailing and variety of buildings in the area, would be visually unattractive, and would result in an unacceptable degree of harm to the visual amenity of the street scene and the special interest, character and appearance of the Beverley Conservation Area. This harm would be 'less than substantial' for the purposes of the policy test set out within the NPPF and the ERLP SD, but is not outweighed by any of the public benefits associated with the development.*

We await news of any future actions.

### **Gas Works in Butcher Row and Toll Gavel.**

As previously publicised, and members will have observed, the extensive works to replace the 'ancient' gas main by The Northern Gas Network are proceeding, and are scheduled to last for at least 12 weeks. The Society has requested that a more informative notice be published on site, as at the site of similar works in Coney Street York, to inform the public of the nature of these essential works. We are awaiting their response.

Understandably many adverse comments have been made about the ugly tarmac that is at present being laid in Butcher Row and Toll Gavel. To avoid any confusion, this is a temporary measure; the Northern Gas Network will fully restore the area to its original condition in stages when the works have been completed.

### **ERYC Local Plan:**

On 30<sup>th</sup> December 2024, the Council received the Inspector's Final Report on the Examination of the East Riding Local Plan Update, marking the end of the Plan's Examination in Public. The Inspector's Report concludes that, subject to a number of Main Modifications set out in an Appendix to the report, the East Riding Local Plan Update 2020-2039 is sound, legally compliant and capable of adoption.

The Local Plan Update will now be considered at the meeting of the Cabinet on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The Cabinet will review the Local Plan Update alongside the Report and will be asked to request its adoption at the next Full Council meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025. Once adopted, the Local Plan Update will replace the current East Riding Local Plan which was adopted in 2016.

The Cabinet meeting agenda, containing the Local Plan Update Cabinet Report, will be available from 18<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Solar Farms:**

Members will have become aware of the increasing level of activity in the surrounding areas of Beverley for developing Solar Farms, in addition to the previously reported Wind Farm collector stations.

Interestingly, and something that not everyone is aware of, there is a different procedure for giving approval of these farms. Please see the copy below from the House of Commons Library Documents regarding Planning Consent for Solar Farms. Ref:

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7434/>

### **Planning consent for solar farms:**

*Solar farms usually require planning permission. The size of a solar farm will determine which body decides the application. For example, in England:*

- *Solar farms with a generating capacity below 50 megawatts (MW) need planning permission from the local planning authority (LPA).*
- *Solar farms with a generating capacity above 50 MW need [development consent from the Secretary of State](#) for Energy Security and Net Zero, because they are nationally significant infrastructure projects' (NSIPs).*

*Planning is a devolved matter. In the devolved administrations, the size of a solar farm will also determine whether the LPA or the government decide an application. However, thresholds differ across the UK (Ed: no further information to hand).*

### **Orsted**

The most recent proposal by **Orsted** relates to establishing a substantial farm capable of generating up to 320MW, three miles to the North of Beverley and East of the A164. For further information see this link to Orsted's website:

<https://www.solarpowerportal.co.uk/orsted-unveils-plans-for-320mw-yorkshire-solar-farm/>

There are a number of Public Consultations scheduled by Orsted including at:

**Beverley Memorial Hall, 73-75 Lairgate, Beverley on 1 March from 12:00 to 17:00.**

### **Lighthouse Property Holdings**

The most recent one we have become aware of is the one proposed by **Lighthouse Property Holdings**: for 49.9MW farm to be located off Drove Lane, between Wheel/Wawne, East of the river Hull with part of the site being across the river from Figham, see <https://www.drovelanesolar.co.uk/> On their website under 'Public Engagement' there is a 'Feedback Form' available for comments, and they are also hosting a public exhibition in the village hall on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**.

*Dick Lidwell*

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## **Contacts with your local Council**

Report a pothole :-

<https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/environment/roads-streets-traffic-and-parking/roads-pavements-and-traffic/potholes/>

Report a full litter bin :-

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a2a9dc48a8064d83a4c19a392aa6c2ea> - this is linked to ERYC, but it is not an ERYC owned site

## Works at St Mary's Church

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January members of the Civic Society were invited to view the works on the north side St Mary's Church in North Bar Within. The ground is being prepared for the new gardens connecting the north side of the church to the Memorial gardens, which are accessed from Hengate. The lead archaeologist, Luigi Signorelli, told us of the work they were doing and what they had found. As may have been expected there were lots of bones, even though being buried on the north side was the least favourite location, after the east, south and west sides of the church. All remains that are found will be reburied on the site. As well as bones, finds included a pipe decorated in a herringbone pattern, possibly made from an antler which was found alongside the skeleton of a woman, and some pins to hold a cloak or other clothing.

Photograph shows Dick Lidwell, chairman of the Beverley and District Civic Society with other members of the Society and Mr Signorelli at the site.



Photograph courtesy Mike Farrimond



*For your Diary*



## Of Interest to Our Members

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Hedon History Society

**Lowgate: A walk through Hull**

John Scotney

2pm at Hedon Methodist Church

£5.00 per visitor

Parking and ramp access.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February

**The Naughtiest Nuns in England?**

**Beverley and Swine Priory**

Marcus Ramshaw

7-9pm in Beverley Minster Nave

Free with donations to Beverley Minster

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Hull History Society

**Deserted Medieval Settlements:**

**Re-evaluating Lost Villages**

Dr Helen Fenwick

7.30pm in Nordic Centre (Danish Church)

Osborne Street, HU1 2PN

Visitors £3

Starting on 15<sup>th</sup> February

**Heritage Craft Workshops at Beverley Minster**

<https://beverleyminster.org.uk/heritage-craft-workshops>

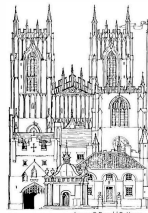
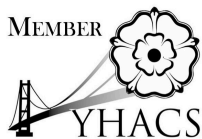
Use the link to find out more.

# Beverley Civic Society Event

*A talk by Colin Bradshaw  
on the women of Beverley in WWII*



**7.30pm, Thursday 6 February 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.**