

# Newsletter:

May 2026

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



## Chairman's Remarks

### Has Spring Sprung?



Photo courtesy *Dick Lidwell*

The recent brighter spell of sunny, if chilly, weather has encouraged a welcome spurt of flowering trees and plants...brightening up the town and countryside.

We report with great sadness that one of our longstanding members, Rosemary Major, passed away on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April. A full obituary will follow in due course, but she was a member of the Executive serving as Membership Secretary for many years, and worked hard in revitalising Coronation Gardens, and was a leading light in the creation of the Sensory Garden. Additionally Dennis Peckett, another active member for many years, who had recently moved away from Beverley, also died on the 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Our talks programme continues to attract sizeable audiences with Caroline Hawley's having in excess of 100 attendees, who were rewarded with a highly informative talk (see page 7), followed by some members having small items valued in a sociable environment.

Our May talk on the 'Battle of Flamborough Head', maybe a little known 'local' hostile event, should be fascinating.

The Society is a member of YHACS: the Yorkshire and Humberside Association of Civic Societies, which holds Regional quarterly meetings and Beverley is hosting the next one on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July; more details of the day will follow in due course.

*Dick Lidwell*

## A couple of town matters

### Pavement markings:

Members may have been surprised to see multi-coloured markings on our pavements: See below:



Photos courtesy Dick Lidwell

ERYC have advised that the spray marks are to do with the 'Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) Surveys' used to identify the depths and locations of existing underground utility pipes and cables without having to dig up the road or footpath.

It is done by using a small antenna pulled over the ground that sends radio waves into the surface. When it hits a pipe etc, they bounce back - identifying the depth.

This is designed to assist future potential works to these public services, and helps reduce the risk of striking services when resurfacing or excavating the ground.

Coloured codes: gas = yellow, electric = red, drinking water = blue, telecoms = orange.  
The paint is water based so will disappear over time.

### Saturday Market works:

Funded by the Department for Transport, this £530,000 project aims to make the area more accessible for pedestrians, especially those with limited mobility, and ensure parking areas are clearer to visitors. The good weather has helped the pace of these works so now one can get a feel of the outcome, with recycled York stone and new kerbs going in, to be followed by new seating, and a Beverley Town Council notice board. We look forward to the completion, hopefully in mid-June.

*Dick Lidwell*

# A Beverley In Bloom/BUG project-Beverley Grovehill Shipyard



'Before'

A number of volunteers from Beverley in Bloom, along with BUG (Beverley Urban Gardeners) have been busy re-landscaping and planting the area immediately around the sign commemorating Beverley's Grovehill Shipyard along Grovehill Road. The area had become pretty derelict since the sign was erected in 2021 and we were approached by Anita Jackson, wife of the late Howard Tomlinson MBE who was instrumental in the commemorative sign being installed, to ask for our help in improving the area. Anita kindly funded the planting and West Building Supplies donated builders' bags of topsoil and gravel along with weed suppressing membrane free of charge.



We completed the project recently and really hope that our planting, once established, will showcase the sign and draw the attention of passers-by to this historic part of the town. The 'before' photo was taken after we had already removed weeds/couch grass and large stones.

*Sue Dyer*



'After' - Photos taken by Beverley in Bloom volunteers

**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 May 1676**, Leonard Gaskill, 27, and Peter Rook, 25, of Beverley, were hanged for stealing 13 sheep from John Brown of Driffield.

**2nd May 1832**, 6 days after Hull whaler *Shannon* struck an iceberg in the Arctic, it was spotted by 2 Danish brigs, and the remaining crew rescued. 22 had died, the remainder left in a canvas shelter with no food or water, had survived by drinking the blood of a dead shipmate. The 19 survivors had frostbite.

**3rd May 1917**, 2nd Lieutenant Jack Harrison single-handedly attacked an enemy machine-gun, and was listed as missing in action at the Battle of Oppy Wood. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross 'for valour'. A Hull-born professional rugby player, he scored a record 52 tries in one season. More Hull lives were lost at Oppy Wood than any other WW1 battle.

**4th May 1667**, Hull MP William Lister wrote to the Hull Mayor about the removal of Dutch prisoners from the Hull gaol. The Dutch had attempted to invade England from the sea.

**5th May 1802**, Beverley Corporation decided to create a lock at the junction of Beverley Beck with the River Hull; from that point, the Beck ceased to be tidal.

**6th May 1636**, William Corbett and 12 other Bridlington residents created the Lords Feoffees of the manor of Bridlington to manage the affairs of the town. They still manage a number of properties in the old town.

**7th May 721**, retired Archbishop of York, John of Beverley died at Beverley. He was canonized as St John of Beverley, and this is his feast day, celebrated at his birthplace, Harpham, with a procession.

**8th May 1941**, Hull suffered its worst air raid of WW2 overnight; with 420 people killed, 800 injured, and more than 800 fires; the Prudential

building collapsed on top of its basement air raid shelter; 3,000 houses were destroyed and a further 9,000 damaged. 35 churches were hit, 2 synagogues, 14 schools; 2 million sq ft of factory space was damaged or destroyed; notable buildings such as House of Powolny restaurant were hit with extensive damage to the docks, including the destruction of Riverside Quay. 40,000 people were made homeless in the month. A large number of commendations for gallantry were made this night and the following night.

**9th May 1708**, the congregation of Cottingham church gave 2s and a penny-halfpenny in a collection for building a protestant church 'in the Duchy of Berg, within the Empire of Germany'

**10th May 1346**, John de Manby and Eobert de Seton, both of Beverley, were convicted before the king at Nottingham of the death of Adam Coppendale, merchant of Beverley, at Barton on Humber.

**11th May 1481**, Stamford shoemaker John Woodcok claimed sanctuary at St John's church, Beverley, for the death of William de Tee, mercer of Stamford, on 30th March.

**13th May 1595**, Richard Laverock and 2 other musicians performed for the Duke of Cumberland's household at Londesborough, and were paid 10 shillings.

**14th May 1917**, James Smith, 30, chief engineer of the Hull trawler *Bel Lilly*, was lost with all hands North East of Peterhead due to enemy action.

**15th May 1618**, Phillip Constable of Wassand Hall was killed in a duel at White Cross, Leven, by Edmund (or Edward) Percy.

**16th May 1917**, former Reckitt's employee, Private Thomas Samuel Taylor was killed in action. He has no known grave.

**17th May 1660**, King Charles II's accession to the throne was announced in Hull; from gallows in the Marketplace the arms of the Commonwealth and an effigy of Oliver Cromwell was hanged.

**18th May 1516**, Robert Bradlay of Halifax claimed the sanctuary of St John's church Beverley for debt.

**19th May 1401**, Isabel Fauconberg, of Skelton (nee Bigod at Settrington) died, and had 13 paupers dressed in russet attend her funeral.

**20th May 1816**, Constable Thomas Pashby was fined 40s at the Tiger Inn, Beverley, for neglect of his duty as village constable in Ellerker, apparently for failing to bring defendants to court.

**21st May 1927**, English actress Kay Kendall was born at Withernsea; she died at the early age of 32, and a museum of her life was created in Withernsea Lighthouse.

**22nd May 1778**, diarist James Boswell arrived in Hull from Barton, viewed the newly opened Dock, and left for the tourist resort of Beverley, where he stayed overnight at the Tiger Inn, and met his relatives, the Bosvilles of Thorpe Hall, Rudston.

**23rd May 1911**, a fire began in the kitchen chimney of Sledmere House, which 24 hours later had destroyed the whole house. Fire engines from Driffield and Malton attended. There were no injuries.

**24th May 1930**, Amy Johnson landed in Darwin after flying 11,000 miles; the first woman to fly from the UK to Australia; she received the CBE and great public acclaim.

**25th May 1537**, Dr James Cockerell, Prior of Guisborough, was hanged, drawn and quartered for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace; he was the Parish Priest of Hessle from 1509-1519.

**26th May 1946**, Mick Ronson was born in Hull. Musician, songwriter, arranger, producer, he was a member of Bowie's 'The Spiders from Mars'. (died 29.4.1993)

**27th May 1958**, Rail engine D49 62703 fell into the turntable pit at Bridlington and had to be recovered by crane.

**29th May 1896**, Rev Henry Frederick Barnes-Lawrence died at Bridlington Quay. He had been Rector of Bridlington Priory church, overseeing its restoration by Sir George Gilbert Scott. He had been a keen birder, and set up the Association for the Protection of Sea-birds, forerunner of the RSPB. His memorial is in the Priory Church.

**30th May 1820**, William Bradley died aged 33 of tuberculosis in Market Weighton. Known as the Yorkshire Giant, he grew to 7'9". He travelled with shows and fairs, and later charged visitors to his home. He was presented to King George III.

**31st May 1902**, Hornsea residents celebrated the end of the Boer War, with an impromptu service held at the Parish Church at 10p.m., followed by a procession around the town, with people singing and waving flags, while others let off fireworks. This may have included Hornsea Brass Band, which existed until WW1.

**If anyone knows of an interesting local historical event occurring on **May 12th**, please let us know!**



## For your Diary



### Of Interest to Our Members

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 11.30 - 1.00pm

**Stained Glass Tour**

Hull Minster

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm

Hull and the East Riding Historical Association

**The Holderness Coast-The Land that came and went**

Richard Clarke

University Library, Hull University,  
Cottingham Road

Hull

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 12.00 - 1.30p.m

**Hull's 3 Crowns**

Martin Taylor

Hull Minster

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm

Barton Civic Society

**The Life and Art work of Reuben Chappell**

Alex Ombler

Joseph Wright Hall, Queen's Street

Barton Upon Humber

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2pm

Hull Civic Society

**A Walk - High Street Merchant Houses**

Led by John Scotney.

Meet outside the Old Dock Office, High Street

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 7.15pm

Hessle Local History Society

**Grave Robbing in Hull and the East Riding**

Peter Lowden

Hessle Town Hall

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2pm

Georgian Society

**A Guided Tour of Wassand Hall followed by tea and cake, and a visit to the grounds**

Members £20.00, Non-members £25.00

Maximum 20.



# The Changing Face of the Auction Market

Caroline Hawley

Beverley Civic Society  
Talk on Thursday  
9 April 2026

Caroline Hawley started her talk with an overview of the antique market today, and the changes that have occurred in recent years: -

- Covid and the way people today purchase.
- Fashion.
- CITES legislation (Endangered Species).
- Antiques/Interior design on TV.
- Economic instability (for example how much this has affected the gold and silver prices).
- Nostalgia.



Photo courtesy Nick Robinson

Caroline gave a summary of her career from starting Penny Farthing Antiques in South Cave at age 20 to establishing Hawley's Auctioneers 25 years ago.

In today's world internet bidding is vital. Auctions used to attract mainly local attendees, but now bidders come from around the world. It is a truly global market.

There is a great deal of instability, which has particularly affected the price of precious metals. Silver goods are now selling for higher prices than their melt price.

## What's Not Fashionable Today

- Brown furniture (though starting to make a slow comeback). For example, a Georgian Bureau that would have sold for £1,000-£1,500 10 years ago can now be bought for £100).
- Longcase clocks. Good examples used to fetch £1,500-£2,000 and now struggle to make more than £100. However now is the time to buy a good example.
- Another example given was a Georgian Chaise Longue, at one time almost unaffordable but now can make as little as £100.
- Ivory Art Deco figurines. An example being a figure by Ferdinand Preiss in bronze and ivory 'Lighter Than Air' sold years ago for £9,000. With restoration of a missing ball, it was estimated at £20,000. Today it is worthless. The original CITES law regarding ivory had a cut-off date of 1947 – items made before then could be sold. As of June 2025, it applies to all ivory regardless of date, unless the ivory is less than 10% of the piece or it is of international importance. Fines for selling ivory can be £250,000.

However, apart from ivory, all these will hopefully make a comeback in the near future.

## What is Fashionable?

- Mid 20<sup>th</sup> century modern (Ercol for example).
- G-Plan and Scandinavian design. As an example, an Ercol day bed sold for £900 recently, 5 years ago this would have been almost worthless. A pair of mid-century Swedish chairs sold for £500 that were destined for a skip, and a 'Boomerang Chair' is very desirable.
- Gillows furniture has great quality and design. A Regency Gillows chair found in Hedon recently sold for £6,000. A pair of modest Victorian mahogany chests of drawers by Gillows, which had the cabinet maker's name inside the drawers, also sold for £6,000.
- Mid-century stainless-steel cutlery for example Viners 'Bark' pattern.
- Vintage fashion – Caroline has a Dior dress bought for £4 which is valuable today.
- Handbags. Caroline did a quiz with 3 handbags 'good, better, best'. The 3 were by Mulberry, a Hermès 'Birkin' and a Hermès 'Kelly'. Valued at £800, £3,000 and one considerably more. The Birkin crocodile bag (albeit with diamonds) sold at auction for £267,000.
- Oak artisan furniture – Robert Thompson (the 'mouse man') and 'Yorkshire Critters' like Peter Heap the 'rabbit' man. A Robert Thompson clock (with poor quality 1950's clock movement) sold for £5,800. Two huge 1930's Thompson tables and benches from a closed Prep school in Leeds made great money, despite their size (at 6m and 5m long). The estimate was £8-12,000. The larger sold for a world record at £42,000 and now resides in Canada.
- Galvanised dolly tubs – now sold worldwide.
- Blue and white ceramics such as 'the beekeeper' pattern.
- Minton and Majolica is making a comeback.
- Wristwatches from good makers are really hot (a Rolex was sold recently for £28,000).
- Amber.
- Comic books/rare books. A set of 'Tin Tin' books by Herge which contained some original drawings sold for £28,000.
- Chinese porcelain. Especially 'mark and period' pieces which are now being bought back by China. A set made for the royal household in the 1720's (dragon with 5 claws) was bought recently for £146,000.
- Tin whistles – a set was sold recently for £3,000 and went to America.
- Charm bracelets, Victorian jewellery and silver items are very popular.
- Film memorabilia are very popular for nostalgic reasons – Star Wars posters in unmarked condition sell for thousands.
- Toys, again nostalgia. WWF figures and Pokémon cards – one card sold for £40,000!
- Old playing cards – a genuine Elizabethan set sold for £7,500.
- Tribal art. During a 'Bargain Hunt' episode at Normanby Hall, an Aboriginal shield was valued at £3-5,000. It sold for £30,000.
- Religious artefacts. An Olivewood and Mother-of Pearl Convent piece from Jerusalem depicting The Last Supper and the Ascension sold well, even though it had been falsely listed in the sales literature as the 'descent into Heaven'!
- Pharmacy Apothecary chests of drawers. A 'tool' chest in poor condition that was destined for a skip in Ellerker turned out to be a Georgian drug chest and sold for £1,600. A retired pharmacist saw this and decided to sell his, in original condition. It sold for £6,000.
- Advertising items. A large carved pig sold for just under £2,000 – it was a Georgian butcher's advertising item.

Caroline stated that you never know what is going to happen at auction and gave some examples: -

- A fine pine carved corbel in original paint sold for £3,800. The original estimate was £200-400.

- A huge Regency centre table with a 1.93m diameter top made from 1 piece of timber sold for £32,000. The original estimate was £2-3,000.

But not everything is a success – Caroline bought a Capodimonte figure from Gilbert Baitson Auctioneer in Hull years ago for £500. Today at best only worth £100 (so if something looks too good to be true, it usually is!).

Caroline concluded the talk with anecdotes from her TV career on ‘Bargain Hunt’ (where she is a current presenter) and ‘Flog It’ (now off air). It used to take a full week to do the voice-over part of each episode. The talk ended with an image of a Vesta case (match striker) which was unusual in depicting a man on a privy!

After the talk Caroline stayed to value items brought to the talk by members, and members enjoyed a glass of wine.

R. F.



John Harper having his teapot valued - photo courtesy *Nick Robinson*

### **Lost Property**

The following item was left at St Mary's Church following our last talk. It contains an item brought for valuation. Please get in touch so we can return it to you.

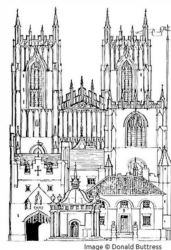
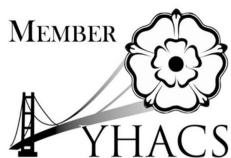


# Beverley Civic Society Event

**A talk by Margaret Hicks-Clarke  
The battle of Flamborough Head**



**7.30pm, Thursday 14 May 2026  
St Mary's Church, Beverley  
Non-members are welcome £5**





Yorkshire  
Wildlife Trust



## I'm opening my wildlife-friendly garden

in aid of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust!

Where: 131-133 KELDGATE BEVERLEY HU17 8JA

Date: SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY

Time: 10.30 - 2.30

Access and parking info: TOWN CENTRE PARKING

Sorry, wheelchair access limited

Please do not bring your four-legged friends

Additional info: Wild flower plants for sale

### Everyone's welcome!

Please come and support us as we help  
to create a wilder future.



Find out more at [www.ywt.org.uk/open-gardens](http://www.ywt.org.uk/open-gardens)

#### DISCLAIMER

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