

Newsletter:

May 2025

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

**BEVERLEY
CIVIC
SOCIETY**

Founded 1961

Chairman's Remarks



Wisteria time!

Easter has passed and the year marches on with, we hope, some more warm weather to encourage new growth and flowering; a most rewarding time of year.

On Thursday 8th May the Nation is commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day, with Beverley holding events organised by Beverley Town Council; for details: <https://www.beverley.gov.uk/v80/>
The Society will be taking part in the wreath laying in the morning, and members may be attending the celebrations in Coronation Gardens later in the day.

On the same day, however, we are holding our next public talk at 7.30pm in St Mary's, to be given by Associate Professor Travis Glasson of Temple University in the USA, who is currently a visiting fellow at Clare Hall, Cambridge University. He is an expert on the Cruger family, and we are looking forward in particular to learning more about James Harris Cruger who resided here in Beverley for a while after the American War of Independence. Our poster for the talk features the plaque the Society recently erected on North Bar Chambers where he lived.

Dick Lidwell

Correction

Apologies everyone for my senior moment when writing about the Bayeux Tapestry – It was, of course, probably ordered by Odo of Bayeux, not Otto (being a Holy Roman Emperor from 962-973 should you wish to know).

ARDEN'S VAULTS

The charm of an old town like Beverley derives not only from its important public edifices (Minster, Guildhall, etc.) but also from its humbler private buildings. One of these is Arden's Vaults. It consists of a great wine-cellar with a chamber of similar size above.

The wine-cellar, nearly 100 feet long and over 20 feet wide, is a homely version of an abbey's Cellarium. It is brick-built and vaulted, with its sides divided into bins by brick partitions; the floor is brick-paved. The chamber above is likewise paved with brick (though the bricks are now covered with a cement skin) and was used for corking, labelling and crating the bottled wines. An ancient hoist, formerly provided with an arm projecting over the street, winched heavy loads up or down.

The vaults are of 17th-century construction, and are said to have been built for St. Mary's Church by a Lockington man by the name of Constable. In the mid-18th century, they were occupied by a wine merchant named Foster, who also had a branch in Hull.

John Arden, who lectured on astronomy and other sciences, came to reside in Beverley in 1756. His son, Dr. John Arden, M.D., studied at St. George's Hospital under John Hunter, the illustrious surgeon and physiologist. Dr. John practised in Beverley and was notable for having been Mayor nine times between 1787 and 1826. In those days, opportunities for investment were rare, and gentlemen of means sometimes bought an interest in trade as a side-line. Accordingly, in 1786 Dr. John purchased the wine business, and thereafter the enterprise was carried on by four generations of the Arden family,

The vaults and the chamber were the property of St. Mary's Church and were held on a lease, rent being paid to the Churchwardens. About the middle of last century Charles Arden (grandson of Dr. John) purchased the small house adjacent as a safeguard and in this part, he installed an office and spirit-cellar.

The licence provided for consumption on the premises, but this provision was not made use of until about 1910. A large barrel was installed in the middle of the spirit-cellar, with a number of stools to accommodate customers (for wines and spirits only). An engraving dating from this period shows the arrangement, with the wine-shop and office in the background. In its heyday, the arches of the wine-cellar were festooned with fungoid 'icicles' upwards of a foot long, which were greatly prized and carefully, preserved. They derived from, and were nourished by, vapour given off by the maturing wines. Casks of wine were held in the wine-shop and spirit-cellar until the 1914-1918 War brought about a change in fiscal regulations and social customs. Also, in the spirit-cellar were large casks of whisky which were blended to suit customers' tastes, but this form of sale was prohibited in 1914 and was never resumed.

The last of the Arden family to carry on a wine and spirit trade in the vaults was Francis Alwyn Arden. He retired in 1935, but one of his assistants, Arthur Morfitt, continued it until the licence lapsed a year later.

A legend has persisted that a subterranean passage once ran from St. Mary's to enable the 'cowled monks' to pass secretly in the wine-vaults. It seems likely that a bricked-up arch in the cellar gave rise to the story, which was assiduously embellished for the delectation of the customers. The story is, of course, unfounded; there never were any monks at St. Mary's, the vaults are post-Reformation, and it would have been impracticable to tunnel through the swampy ground adjoining the vaults and the nearby Walker Beck,

Since 1935 the vaults have had a chequered history. The wine-cellar and chamber were acquired by Mr. C.H. Drewry, proprietor of a chinaware shop in Saturday Market. He was an antiquary and hoped to establish a museum in the premises, but the War intervened. During the war, the great wine-cellar was used as an air-raid shelter; the fungoid growths were scraped off the arches, baffle-walls (against blast) were built each end, and an emergency exit was constructed. After the war, Watts Bros. used the chamber above the wine-cellar as a furniture store. Now in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. C.N. Hobson, it is used as a games room, and there is a proposal to adapt it as an art gallery. The former wineshop and office are now Mr. Musgrove's milk depot.

The Arden family has had a long and honourable record of public service in Beverley:

John Arden, M.D.	1753-1837 Alderman and Mayor (nine times)
John Barker Arden	1782-1847 Alderman
Charles Arden	1819-1890 Alderman and Mayor (twice)
Francis Alwyn Arden	1857-1940 Alderman

All these were Freemen of the Worshipful Company of Vintners. Dr John Arden is notable for having taken the lead in ending bull-baiting on Mayor-swearing Day. George Oliver, in his 'History of Beverley', published in 1829, records: *"Mr. Alderman Arden, and it will be ever remembered to his honour, resolved to abolish this barbarous amusement, at the risk of sacrificing his popularity with the people, and positively refused to provide an animal for this brutal purpose....."*

(compiled from information supplied by Messrs. C.A. Arden and A. Watts and Mrs. C.N. Hobson)

Arden's Vaults has Grade II listed building status, that was awarded in 1950 and a contemporary photograph is shown below. Architectural historian and local resident, David Neave, writing in the revised Pevsner guide said of the building:

"...contributes much to the street scene...No.16, Arden's Vaults, of the early 18th Century: two storeys with arched doorway to left leading to a brick vaulted cellar 100 feet long and over 20 feet wide [with 7 feet thick walls]. On the front is a stone with the cryptic inscription 'St M's Ch Py' which, like several others in the town denotes St Mary's Church property."



Arden's Vaults, Hengate
Photograph courtesy Dick Lidwell

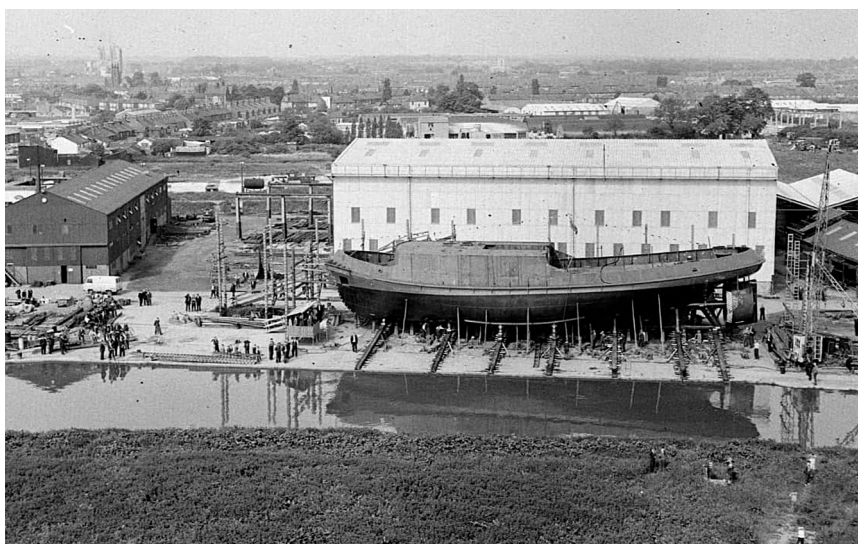
Bygone Beverley - Part 2

Kloskk Tyrer's talk last year proved so popular that we were delighted when she returned in April this year to share some more photographs of Beverley between 1900 and 1990. A record number of people came to enjoy a trip down memory lane and also to remind us that not all the changes in Beverley are for the worst.

Kloskk had over 50 photographs to share so we have selected just 5 showing different aspects of life in Beverley. All photographs courtesy Kloskk.

Shipyard launch, 1966

This showed a tug being built. Engines were fitted in Hull after the main hull was built in Beverley. It took 3 tides to get a ship down to Hull. Behind the tug is the Admiralty Shed, built in WW2. 88 vessels were built here, including 2 minesweepers. A later photograph from 1975 showed the total lack of Health and Safety equipment. Many riveters suffered deafness and tinnitus due to lack of ear defenders.



The Dandy Tuck Shop, 1989 – Saturday Market

Owned by the Thews sisters, this had no sign advertising its wares but it was a greengrocer, with a café behind the net curtains. Upstairs was a gentleman's hairdressing salon. This was presided over by Ray who wore dark glasses and chain smoked. Sold in the 1990s it has a beautifully preserved Georgian bay window.



The Holderness Hotel, 1905 – Toll Gavel

This had stabling for 60 horses, accessed from Landress Lane and used to advertise that it could hold 'Pleasure parties at short notice'. In 1933 it became the Department store, Scholfield's, finally closing in 1994. There are now 2 separate shops, the Card factory and Cotton Traders. It is alleged that 'ghost lettering' from the original signage can be seen through the paint, but Kloskk has never managed to see it.



Kemps Corner, early 1950s - corner of Saturday Market and Lairgate

This housed John Kemp and Son, stationers, printers and booksellers until 1925. In the 1950s the ground floor became Simson's photographers and a pet shop, which eventually moved to North Bar Within. It has been suggested that the discolouration on the roof was as a result of a German bomb but it is more likely to have been where a dormer window was removed.

At this time, Lairgate was a two-way street with a very narrow entrance into Saturday Market. Eventually the council bought the 6 bay building and demolished part of it to allow a wider access into Saturday market and Lairgate became one-way. The new, tapered building had a vault included for the National Provincial Bank. This is below the pavement lights.



The School Clinic and Dentist, formerly the Rifle Range Members Club Room built in 1909

Replaced by the Magistrates Court in 2001, the dentist was a place greatly to be feared, where folk were often seen vomiting as a result of inhaling gas and air. The clinic was perhaps less traumatic, with verrucae being dug out, orange juice distributed and the polio sugar lump administered.



For your Diary



Of Interest to Our Members

Wednesday 7th May

The Wife of Bath

Dr Marcus Ramshaw

7.00 - 9.30pm Upstairs Room in the Monks Walk,
19 Highgate

Admission free – suggested donation £5, profits to
Beverley Minster

Tuesday 13th May

Hedon and District Local History Society

Out with the Old, in with the New: Hull Repertory Company & Hull New Theatre's Early Years

Michele Beadle

2pm Hedon Methodist Church

£5.00 per visitor

Parking, level access, free refreshments

Thursday 15th May

Hull History Society.

Venture Smith - from Slavery to Success

Chandler Smith Researcher, Wilberforce Institute

7.30pm Nordic Centre (Danish Church), Olborne
Street, HU1 2PN

Visitors £3

Wednesday 21st May

Hornsea Civic Society

A New World and a New Dawn: Beverley and 1381 Peasants Revolt

Charles Ryder

7.30pm Methodist Church on Newbegin in
Hornsea

(This is a reprise of Dr Marcus Ramshaw's talk
previously given at Beverley Minster)

May 23rd to 25th

Friday 23rd May

Early Music Festival

Life and Music in Georgian Beverley and beyond

Susan Neave

4.00 – 5.00pm St Mary's Church Hall, Beverley

£15



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SKIPTON'S YORKSHIRE HERITAGE SUMMIT TO BE "BEST EVER"

The Yorkshire Society are expecting that the fourth Yorkshire Heritage Summit, due to take place on Tuesday 13th May in Skipton's beautifully restored Town Hall, will prove to be the "best ever".

Around 30 different heritage organisations from all over Yorkshire will be coming to Skipton to take part in this popular annual event. The Yorkshire Society's CEO Phil Bell commented: "Given the interest and support coming from as far away as East Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Coast, there is every chance that our 2025 event will be the best Yorkshire Heritage Summit ever".

"The thinking behind the Heritage Summit is to create an informal forum, which voluntary groups large and small, concerned with natural or cultural heritage from every part of the three ancient Ridings of Yorkshire, can get together to meet, share ideas and showcase all that they are doing".

A Heritage Exhibition will take place in the Concert Hall in Skipton Town Hall and be open to the public, FREE of charge between 10am and 4pm. The Exhibition will be the central attraction, giving visitors a chance to get to know what different groups are doing to protect and enhance the rich and varied heritage of Yorkshire.

Colin Speakman, Heritage Lead for The Yorkshire Society, said: "This is all about sharing awareness of all the great things that there are to see and do in our wonderful Region. There will be displays to enjoy, conversations to be had, events to put in your diary and campaigns to support. And the Society has already been overwhelmed by the warmth and friendliness of the welcome from the people of Craven".

As well as the main Heritage Exhibition, the afternoon will include a pre-bookable Heritage Symposium with speakers and discussions. There will also be three very special guided walks within Skipton town centre led by members of the Yorkshire Society's partners for the Summit, Skipton Civic Society. These walks, led by local experts, will look at various aspects of Skipton's long history as an iconic Dales market town and industrial centre.

Those staying into the evening can take part in a session of traditional and modern Yorkshire folk music in Skipton's historic Black Horse Inn.

For full details of the Yorkshire Heritage Summit 2025 in Skipton and to book places for the Symposium, Guided walks or Evening folk sessions visit: <https://theyorkshiresociety.org/event/2025-yorkshire-heritage-summit/>

For further information email - heritage@theyorkshiresociety.org

Beverley Civic Society Event

*A talk by Travis Glasson on Beverley's
connection to the Cruger family*



7.30pm, Thursday 8 May 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.