



# Newsletter:

January 2026

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

**BEVERLEY  
CIVIC  
SOCIETY**

Founded 1961



## A Happy New Year to all our Members



### Chairman's Remarks

#### 'Welcome to the New Year!'

The North Bar has been restored to its glory after being in the 'dark' for so long. Let's hope that there will be no repeat of the earlier damage events (both the southern lights have been damaged in turn!).

Also members may have noticed for some time the growth of weeds at the top between the turrets but an ERYC team has removed these a couple of weeks before Christmas; an essential initial work to protect the Bar. The roots though will have created damage to the lime mortar. This will need to be repaired to ensure the preservation of one of Beverley's most historic buildings.

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December the town's Annual Festival of Christmas took place which, as usual, attracted huge crowds. It is worth remembering that the event's founder was John Bird, (an active executive member of the Society and a Beverley Town Mayor), who in 1995 rallied local traders to create a special day of "Christmassy magic" in the town; what a legacy 30 years on!

The Executive Committee wishes you all a very Happy New Year, and it looks forward to seeing you at our events. As previously announced there is no Public lecture in January, so the first lecture in the New Year will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February when the Chief Executive of the Beverley Housing Charity, Andy Barber, will speak about their work and the history of Beverley's Alms-houses. Btw: you may know the organisation as the Beverley Consolidated Charity (its official name).



Photo - courtesy Dick Lidwell

Dick Lidwell

## Work on the Archery Field

Many thanks to the team of gardeners who came to tackle brambles, briars and thorns on the Archery Field at the end of last month. Luckily we had a dry morning and it looked greatly improved after a good morning's work of planting more hawthorn saplings, removing as many plastic tree guards as we dared and cutting back the briars and blackthorn.



This photo was taken by Vivian Bush, and shows Sue McCallum, Carole Armstrong and Barbara English tackling a fallen ivy bough.

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### Planning Matters

#### Gas Main Replacement works:

Members may have noticed that the reinstatement works in Toll Gavel and Butcher Row have been completed. One of the delay issues was resourcing the setts for the Burton Corner (Carluccio/Daniella Draper). We trust all will be well!

#### Saturday Market pedestrianisation:

Following completion of the consultation, the works are due to start towards the end of January.

#### Meeting with ERYC Planning Office.

The Society's Planning Group Biannual meeting with ERYC's Interim Executive Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration, Stephen Hunt, and the Historic Environment Officer, Richard Broadhead will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> January. Clearly the Group has a number of items for the agenda, but should any member have a substantive planning query please do email the Chairman: [richard@lidwell.com](mailto:richard@lidwell.com) with the details.

#### Empty Shops:

ERYC has publicised a Scheme promoted by HMG to 'auction' premises within Beverley's retail area that have been empty for a year. See a copy of the notice on the next page. Although Beverley tends to maintain occupancy there are some larger premises (eg; ex-Banks) that need to be revived. The Consultation ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December but as the scheme has been publicised all around Beverley maybe you will have submitted any comments by then.

# High Street Rental Auctions

Across the country more shops and commercial buildings are standing empty, making our high streets look less welcoming, and affecting local businesses and the community. To help fix this, the government has brought in a new law. East Riding of Yorkshire Council now has the power to require landlords to rent out shops and commercial buildings that have been unoccupied continuously for 12 months, or for at least 366 days (non-continuously) within a 24 month period, subject to meeting certain conditions. This is called a **High Street Rental Auction** (HSRA). While recognising that many of the high streets in the East Riding are thriving, for consistency's sake and in case circumstances change, the council is proposing to specify all areas designated as retail centres within the East Riding local plan as HSRA areas. This street forms part of one of these areas. Please see map below.



The council will only use the HSRA power when needed and will always work with the landlord first to bring the property back into use. This power lets the council rent out a property only if the landlord does not take appropriate action. The landlord remains the legal owner of the property.

We want to understand what people think about the idea of the council using High Street Rental Auctions and what people think about using them in this area. Your feedback will help us decide the best way forward.

For more information, please visit: [http://www.eryc.link/hsra?rb\\_src=QR](http://www.eryc.link/hsra?rb_src=QR) or scan this QR code:



The consultation closes on **31<sup>st</sup> December 2025** after which we will consider the next steps. Please send any comments to: [hsra@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:hsra@eastriding.gov.uk) or  
Support HSRA  
Room AS67  
County Hall  
Beverley  
HU17 9BA

Dick Lidwel

# **Swords, Slaves and Staters**

## **The Archaeology Collections of East Riding Museums Service**

### **Dr David Marchant**

We were delighted to welcome Dr David Marchant to another popular talk, the last of the season. During the evening, Dr Marchant explained his role in receiving, researching, interpreting and caring for the items he has been given.

Broadly speaking, the talk encompasses some of the things in the collection, some things which were not and some of the challenges faced by the museum service.

There are a number of sites where the collection is either stored or displayed. These include Sewerby Hall, Goole Museum and, of course, the Treasure House. There are also temporary or semi-permanent displays throughout the region, and Skidby Mill and Beverley Guildhall were mentioned in this category.

Almost immediately one of the greatest challenges of the job was revealed - storage. What is available is 95% full and whilst the service might be looking for more, there is the perennial problem of funding. The Treasure House is, at least, air conditioned, going some way to help keep the elements of the collection which are there, in good condition.

To give us some idea of the extent of riches in the collection we were told that there are nearly 4,000 Archaeological records on the data base, 1232 images and at a very rough estimate 20,000 objects. There are also sites with no finds, sites with a watching brief, over 300 metal detecting sites and over 200 digital only records.

Where do all these items come from?

Some are antiquarian finds, not necessarily related to the local area, others are found by metal detectorists and others simply by members of the public walking their dog or digging in the back garden.

Many of the bulk finds are excellent for academic research but not ideal for display purposes. These items might include bone, flint, pottery and tile. They may have long term research potential, but in the current political climate it can be hard to justify spending on storing these items.

670 records mention flints and these can be thousands of small pieces. There are 804 records of pottery, brick and tile. The pottery is rarely intact, more often than not it is in sherds and again produces a storage issue

There are 231 records of bones, both animal and human, bringing ethical issues about storing human remains. One such example is the Sewerby so-called, Live Burial. In investigating its provenance, how often should permission be given to drill holes in the bones or collect data from the remaining teeth?

Dr Marchant also referenced items that would not be found in the East Riding Collection. Any finds pre 1996 might well be in museums in Hull or York, or in the British museum. It would be useful if there was more detailed mapping of which museum has what.

Inevitably, techniques used in excavation and record keeping have improved over the years. Earlier items are often separated from the records. But whichever items are added to the collection, the depositor has to pay a fee to leave the item. Then, of course, the Service has to find a place to store them and pay for its conservation.

Dr Marchant went on to highlight a few outstanding items in the collection. This included the South Cave weapon cache which included Iron Age Swords and 33 spear heads, possibly more than any other site in the UK. A lottery application was made for their purchase, conservation and display. It is unclear why they were deposited. It was possibly an old battle site, a secret arms cache or a ritual display. There were no bodies or evidence of burials nearby. The swords, which cannot be removed from their scabbards, are of different ages, suggesting some were family heirlooms (3)

Metal detecting may highlight the difficulties of poor record keeping. The recording of findspots is variable but there are random occasional rarities such as the crude figures found at Middleton. They were possibly associated with slavery but no associated finds were made.

A number of coin hoards have been found in the local area, including Staters, Iron Age Coins depicting stars and moons (1)

260 Roman coins were found at Deepdale Hall near Barrow on Humber. Because of funding issues, the coins have been dispersed to a number of different museums and individuals. Roman coins are useful because they provide a lot of information, including the name of the emperor and a variety of propaganda messages.

My favourite item was a possible manuscript pointer catalogued as a filial, silver with a mercury coating. Dated about 800AD it was found at Kilham(2)



Pictures from the ER Collections catalogue - courtesy David Marchant

For your own pleasure, do browse the collection at <http://www.eastridingmuseums.co.uk/>

**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.**

**On 1st January 1841**, Daniel Boyes started a new tradition at The Angel, Beverley, to bake an enormous game pie for customers; it weighed more than 7 stone. In 1844 the pie weighed 10 stone, and was 18" wide, 12" high, and 2' 2" long.

**On 2nd January 1293**, a jury set up by order of King Edward I found that the Abbot of Meaux owned most of the town of Wyke on Hull, with Lords Furnivall and Vescy owning smaller parts. They found 74 tenants, and that the Abbot held court there, and that there was space used for fairs and a market.

**On 3rd January 1629**, Francis Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, during a typical festive period for the Londesborough household, 84 staff were feasted, with 315 extra dinners and 251 extra suppers being served to tenants and guests during Christmas Week.

**On 5th January 1304**, Sir John de Sutton was pardoned, because of his military service to King Edward II in Scotland, for taking hares in the King's warren of Holderness.

**On 6th January 1764**, flooding was so bad that the Holderness turnpike was unusable between Hull and Bilton until 1st April. One man and a horse were drowned attempting the route. The building of Holderness Drain was begun that year.

**On 7th January 1884**, the steamer, European, landed in Hull, bringing the Spurn lifeboat for repair from Holland, where it had been found on the Dutch island of Texel after breaking from its moorings in a gale on Christmas Day.

**On 8th January 1910**, Alfred Spencer, shoemaker, was working in his shop in Marine Drive, Hornsea, during a storm when the cliff edge collapsed. As he could not get through the door he reputedly had to be rescued through a hole knocked in the wall.

**On 9th January 1779**, Morfitt Kilham, Richard Basehead, Isaac Cockshaw, John Emerson and Robt

Fowler were each paid 1s for a day's work filling the ice house on Beilby Thompson's estate at Escrick Hall from the river, together with a share in a cheese worth 4s 8d.

**On 10th January 1849**, Cottingham land agent Thomas Spenceley reported that he had measured the distance from the Spa Inn, Aldbrough to the sea in 1832 and again in 1848 and the loss of land due to coastal erosion was 28 yards in that period. On 6.8.1832 the distance was 160 yards; on 11.8.1848 it was 132 yards, an average loss of 5ft 3" per year.

**On 11th January 1582**, Hull widow Jane Smyth was ordered to be put in the stocks at the next market, with a paper on her head, and given notice to quit the house she rented from the town, for cursing and slandering the mayor, justices, aldermen and the preacher.

**On 12th January 1808**, Robert Escritt and John Paul, agricultural labourers, were found guilty of blackmailing gentleman farmer Francis Brown of Kelleythorpe, after accusing him of raping John Paul. They were sentenced to stand in the pillory at Driffield on 3 consecutive market days, and to a year in the House of Correction, Beverley. N.B. Sodomy was punishable by hanging at the time.

**On 13th January 1621**, Stephen Doughton left his job as servant of the Francis Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, and received 2 years' arrears of wages, a total of £5 6s 8d. The family was short of cash, and servants were often not paid until they left the Earl's employ.

**On 14th January 1642**, Sir John Hotham arrived in Hull to take up the post of Governor, and was refused entry at Beverley Gate by the Mayor, Thomas Raikes. A messenger was sent to Parliament, who ordered the Mayor to accept Hotham and his forces, and to resign his post, or face a charge of high treason. Hotham was admitted.

**On 15th January 1885**, Thomas Escritt died aged 87 at Cranswick. Known as 'the Bishop of Cranswick', he was a powerful Primitive Methodist preacher. Each day for 60 years, on his walk to farm work at Burn Butts, he stopped at the same spot to pray for the people of Cranswick. It was said that no grass would grow on this spot, until the 1930s, when the airfield was built over it.

**On 16th January 1537**, John Hallam and about 20 men entered Hull on market day, planning to seize the town and re-start the Pilgrimage of Grace. Hallam was betrayed by a man called Fowberry of Newbald, and arrested.

**On 17th January 1583**, William Lyon, fisherman of Yarmouth, obtained permission to move with his family to Hull, to become a freeman, to set up business as a fisherman and train others in the trade.

**On 18th January 1482**, William Roughwayt, baker, of Beverley, claimed sanctuary in Durham cathedral for killing John Thomson at Beverley on 8 Dec; he claimed it was in self-defence. He wounded Thomson in the thigh with a dagger, and he died of the wound later that day, presumably from loss of blood.

**On 19th January 1684**, Sir Robert Hilyard, knight & Baron of Patrington, gave his son Capt Robert Hilyard '2 whole puses or closets, which were positioned in the South Transept'.

**On 20th January 1595**, Robert Cripling and William Lucas, servants to Sir Francis Clifford, bet another Londesborough servant, George Ingmire, that they could beat him in a race on foot from Londesborough to Market Weighton; they won.

**On 21st January 1516**, William Wilbert, husbandman of Brantingham, claimed sanctuary at the church of St John, Beverley, for asportation, which usually referred to theft, in this case described as 'a felony committed over a sheep'.

**On 22nd January 1643**, Nicholas Osgodby, vicar of St Mary's Beverley, left his post to join the Royalist army.

**On 23rd January 1221**, William de Forz II, Count of Aumale and Lord of Holderness, was excommunicated for the second time, for rebelling against the King, fortifying castles which were not his, and failing to fulfil a vow to go on crusade.

**On 24th January 1882**, Peter Hughes, 16, ship's cook, died on board the fishing smack Gleaner, registered in Hull, on the Dogger Bank. He died at the hand of Edward Wheatfill, after two weeks of beating, starvation, and torture, including being tied naked on deck. Wheatfill was found guilty of murder and executed at York in November 1882

**On 25th January 1201**, King John and Queen Isabella visited Cottingham and Beverley on their way to Driffield, where they stayed on 27th.

**On 26th January 1516**, John Catton, husbandman, of Allerthorpe, claimed sanctuary at the church of St John, Beverley, for felony.

**On 27th January 1599**, the Earl of Pembroke's Players arrived at Londesborough House for a week performing plays for the Shrovetide period, for payment of 15 shillings.

**On 28th January 1515**, William Jakson of Belby, near Howden, claimed sanctuary at the church of St John, Beverley, for the murder of John (rest of the name blank in the register).

**On 29th 1916**, Sir Clements Robert Markham KCB, FRS of Stillingfleet died aged 85. Born in Stillingfleet, he became a Navy officer, explorer and geographer, Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, organiser of Scott's 1901-4 National Antarctic Expedition, author, and organiser of the 1860 expedition to collect cinchona for quinine.

**On 30th January 1901**, Beverley Mayor Elwell proclaimed the accession of King Edward VII to a large crowd at the Market Cross, despite bitterly cold weather and a snow storm.

**On 31st January 1918**, former Reckitt's employee George William Trowell, 27, private with the East Yorkshire Regiment, was posted as missing, believed killed. He had been wounded in September 1916, discharged from hospital and returned to France. He has no known grave.

**For the many of you who enjoyed the recent Margaret Powell Memorial Lecture on the subject of Philip Larkin, the following Exhibition at the Hull History Centre may be of interest.**

**Note that the Exhibition ends on January 8<sup>th</sup>**

## **Exhibition: Philip Larkin, 'The Less Deceived', and his friend Ted Tarling**

Original material will be on display in the library, 6 November 2025 - 8 January 2026, during our opening hours – [www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk](http://www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk)

Free, all welcome.

Join us as we mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Philip Larkin's poetry collection 'The Less Deceived', published by the Marvell Press in 1955. Discover the photograph album that inspired the first poem in the collection, 'Lines on a Young Lady's Photograph Album', and view Larkin's original notebook containing his first drafts of the poem.

We also invite you to discover the fascinating friend of Larkin, Ted Tarling. Born in Stoneferry, Hull, Tarling attended Hull Art School before making his mark locally as a jazz musician. He launched the Sonus Press, publishing the poetry magazine 'Wave', and was a talented artist. You can view the painting by Tarling that Larkin admired for its 'meticulous melancholy', commenting that it 'speaks straight to me...it's very much life as I see it.'

Graham Chesters, Chair of the Philip Larkin Society, says, 'For a man with such gifts, Ted seems to have been unconcerned about fame or even recognition. Looking back 21 years after his death in 2004, it's time to take the light from under the bushel. Larkin would have approved.'

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## **Forthcoming Dates for Civic Society Talks**

Whilst we have yet to finalise the 2026 programme (we have one talk to confirm), we do have the dates for next year for those of you who would like to write them in their new 2026 diary. The leaflet with full details will be available at the February talk.

All the talks will be in St Mary's Church at 7.30 **with the exception of the AGM in October which will take place in the St Mary's Church Hall.**

January 2026 - No talk	February 12 <sup>th</sup>
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	April 9 <sup>th</sup>
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	June 11 <sup>th</sup>
Summer break with event to be announced	
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	October 8 <sup>th</sup> -AGM
November 12 <sup>th</sup> -Margaret Powell Memorial Lecture	December 10 <sup>th</sup>



**Whilst our own Society takes a break in January, there is still much to enjoy in the coming month**

Wednesday 7 January 2026

Cottingham Local History Society  
**Medieval Beverley**  
Colin Bradshaw  
Cottingham Civic Hall  
7.45-9.15pm  
Members £2.00 Non-Members £4.00

Monday 12 January 2026

Hull Civic Society  
**Sam Allon: Documented Demolition**  
David Ostler  
Holiday Inn Express Ferensway  
7.30pm

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Molescroft Wildlife  
**Restarting the weekly 1 hour Molescroft walking for health**  
Molescroft Pavilion, Woodhall Way  
10am

Monday 19 January 2026

Hull Civic Society  
**Tour and Talk**  
Sewell Group Craven Park, Preston Road  
2.00pm

Wednesday 28 January 2026

**The story of the student and the girl: The origins of theatre and entertainment in medieval Beverley**  
Dr Marcus Ramshaw  
Beverley Minster Nave  
5-7 pm  
Admission free- suggested donation £5.00  
Profits to Beverley Minster

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