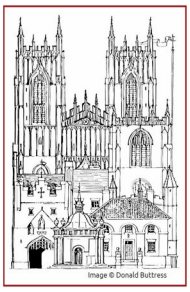


Newsletter:

December 2024

https://www.beverleycivicsociety.com/

BEVERLEY CIVIC SOCIETY
Founded 1961

Chairman's Remarks

Photo by Christine Harrod

This year nature's colours have been exceptional with buttercups galore, amazing skies and sunsets, a Super moon, autumnal leaves and the unexpected Northern Lights' show. I hope you all have had a good year too and have enjoyed our talks programme, and these monthly newsletters. The Society appears to be in good health with a small increase in membership, developing our activities, including tree planting, commenting on planning matters, organising Heritage Open Days, all contributing to our aim of 'Stimulating civic pride in the beauty and character of Beverley and its surroundings'. Our final talk of the year on 12th December on 'Past and Present Taverns of Beverley' will be followed, as is traditional, with an opportunity to socialise over a seasonal drink and mince pies. I thank you for your support over the last year and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Dick Lidwell

Merry Christmas

Planning Matters

Lord Roberts Road.

These plans are being decided on by the Eastern Area Planning Committee on the afternoon of Monday 25th November (after the deadline for this edition of the Newsletter) but we shall bring you up to date as soon as we are able.

The Society along with many other organisations and individuals have, whilst being keen to see the site being redeveloped, consistently objected to the current plans. We await the outcome with interest.

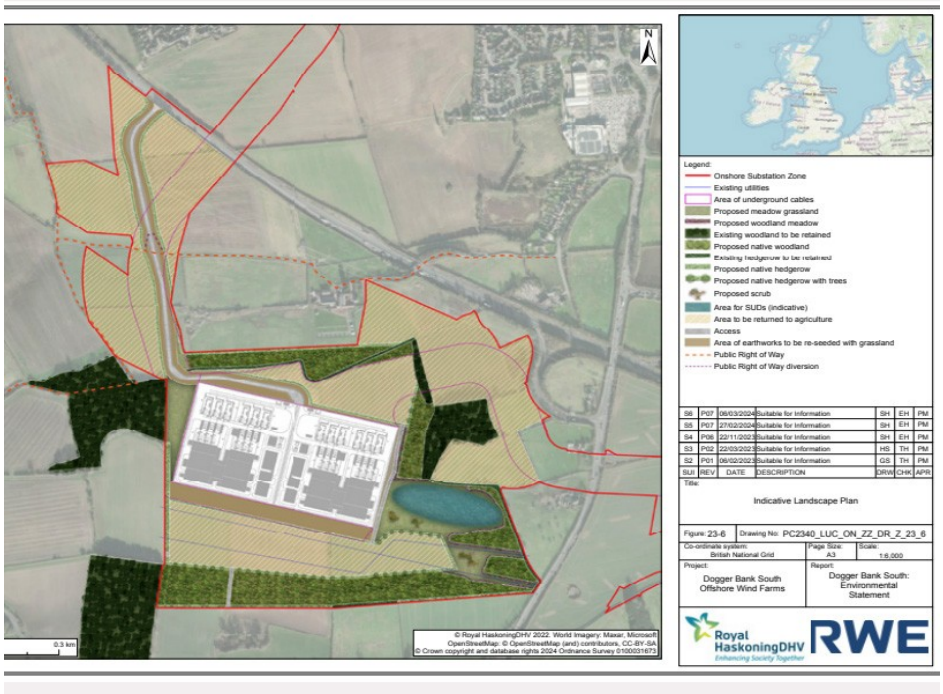
The Park and Ride site:

The application by Strata to build 80 houses on the site has been withdrawn. We await the next step, but the Society has advocated that this site should be left as an Open Green space to encourage wildlife and other nature, and for recreational use by the neighbouring estates and the public.

The Southern Railway Bridge:

The consultation, which we understand has in the main been positive, has been completed and we now await the next stage of the planning process.

Dogger Bank Converter Stations:



As members no doubt are aware both RWE/DBS and SEE have been consulting with the public, via open exhibitions and surveys, on plans for their two converter stations in order to feed Green energy from the Dogger Bank wind farms into the National Grid at Creyke Beck. The National Grid is building an additional substation adjacent to the existing one to accept this increase in energy into the Grid.

The Society is concerned that these proposed developments will have a considerable negative impact on the countryside to the south of Beverley, especially around Butt farm and Bentley. See above the screening proposal near Butt Farm. There is, of course, one converter station almost completed north of the A1079.

We face a dilemma in that the desirable move to generate green energy will have a negative impact as a result of building new infrastructure. Every effort must be made to ensure the impact on communities directly affected are as minimal as possible.

There is still time to explore these plans to be fully informed and have your say:

see these websites:

https://doggerbank.com/

https://www.sserenewables.com/offshore-wind/projects/dogger-bank/

https://uk.rwe.com/project-proposals/dogger-bank-south/

Dick Lidwell

Remembrance Day

The Society was honoured to be invited to lay a wreath in the memorial gardens on Remembrance Sunday.

Photos courtesy *Rosie Ryan*

A message from Rosie Ryan and the Tree Planters….

We have 200 hawthorn saplings (FREE!) being delivered in early December and need to get them planted to boost the gappy hedge on the Archery Field.

If you are feeling fit and willing to help plant a few of these, would you be able to join us on Wednesday 4th December at 10.30am?

Please bring your gardening gloves and a spade - Archery Field is adjacent to the Minster Junior School on Central Avenue.

MANY Thanks - *Rosie*

The good, the bad and some not-so-good news on reinstatement

At last, the unsightly "temporary" reinstatement at the junction of Walkergate and Butcher Row has been removed and on 5 November paving was installed to "almost" match the original. To be fair this was a great improvement compared to the "temporary" black tarmac left by Yorkshire Water's contractor. The photograph below (1) was taken in January 2023, some nineteen months ago. Streetworks legislation states that reinstatement to match existing paving should be completed in six months! Should not offending organisations be fined? The Society asked ERYC to contact Yorkshire Water about this excessive delay and maybe our voice was heard? Thank you, ERYC.

The photograph below (2) shows the recently completed reinstatement on 5 November.

However, the next image (3) shows the activity on 9 November when Northern Gas Networks had to expose the gas pipes close to the recently restored area. Surprisingly this excavation was properly restored on 12 November, which goes to show that these excavations and subsequent reinstatement can be well synchronised. We'd like to see more reinstatements properly completed within this timescale.


(1)


(2)


(3)

Whilst we might celebrate this small victory, there is more work to be done in the pedestrianised area, which will cause significant disruption. ERYC has told us that in January 2025 Northern Gas Networks (NGN) will be carrying out gas replacement works along Saturday Market, through to Butcher Row. The replacement scheme is expected to take approximately 12 weeks to complete, and will be carried out in four stages:

Saturday Market: 2 weeks
Toll Gavel: 4 weeks
Butcher Row: 3 weeks
Walkergate: 3 weeks

NGN will be excavating along the pedestrianised areas, they will initially reinstate the affected sections with a temporary tarmac, and intend to return at a later date, probably April or May, to fully restore the area to its original condition. The temporary black tarmac reinstatement will not be aesthetically pleasing along the length of Toll Gavel and Butcher Row, but NGN claim it necessary to allow the works to progress swiftly.

The Society will continue to monitor the progress of this disruptive scheme to replace old iron gas pipes with polyethylene, which is part of a nationwide scheme to replace iron gas pipes which are close to property.

Text and Photographs by Mike Farrimond

The Beverley Industrial Trail

Type Beverley, East Yorkshire into your search engine of choice, and you will find a wealth of information about our stunning Gothic Minster and Parish Church of St Mary's. There are many references to the town's prominence and wealth during the height of medieval pilgrimage and later, following relative decline in the aftermath of the Reformation, its revival in the Georgian period. Beverley boasts some beautiful Georgian town houses and an 18th century Market Cross.

Less well known to tourists and local inhabitants alike is Beverley's industrial past. A few years ago, interest was reawakened when Professor Barbara English highlighted the 39 Georgian and Victorian gas lampposts scattered around Beverley which are thought to be the oldest remaining such features in the UK. Initially by Thomas Malam and later William Crosskill, they illustrate that Beverley was very much part of the Industrial Revolution. Malam's were made at the Thorncliffe Iron works in Sheffield, but Crosskill's in Beverley. Crosskill was also famous for inventing and designing agricultural machinery such as threshing machines and mills, a reflection on East Yorkshire's primarily agricultural employment. Later the town was involved in ship building, the manufacture of shock absorbers, and continued the medieval tradition of tanning. These were just a few of the industries for which the town was rightly renowned.

With the removal in 2022 of the listed wooden canopy of the footbridge built in 1889 over the railway line, it became increasingly apparent that more attention needed to be paid to Beverley's industrial heritage by the Civic Society. Aside from the loss of many factories, landmarks and sites over the last 50 years or so, there is an awareness that oral history is also in danger of being lost. We need Older Beverlonians to share their memories and recollections of the last century. So, it was decided to create an Industrial Trail which would sit alongside the Town and Elwell Trails

It would be wonderful to report that our trail is up and running. However, it would be truer to say that the project has begun with much enthusiasm from a sub-committee from the Society Executive, some Society volunteers and some much-needed advice and support from Kloskk Tyrer, of Beverley's historic Guildhall.

The wealth of industry has meant that we have finally settled on two trails, one which is focussed on the more well-trodden town centre and the other, which looks to the Beck and the generally heavier industries on the waterfront and the surrounding area. Mapping out the routes, walking them to check that they were feasible and ensuring that nothing key has been forgotten has been done. The next task is for us to draw up a timetable of how we want to proceed. Permission needs to be granted for the erection of the plaques and the wording of the plaques needs to be decided. After much discussion we have settled on limited text for the plaques and are considering the use of a QR code taking the enthusiastic 'trailer' to our website to discover more. It will be quite a challenge as little remains of much of Beverley's industrial past. We are looking to a different shape and colour of plaque design to differentiate them from the social and political plaques in green which are in evidence around the town. We are also exploring plaques made of different materials, suitably durable but perhaps less expensive.

Much remains to be done but we are confident that with the continued enthusiasm of the sub-committee we can create another enjoyable historical adventure for all those who wish to explore and enjoy the wonderful town of Beverley.

Lesley Blucke

Interested in Local Family and Hull's History?
'A veritable Pandora's Box'

This building was created as Hull's 'Carnegie Free Library' and is located by the southern gates of West Park and was one of 660 libraries in Britain and Ireland built with funds supplied by the Scottish Industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The fund donated £3000 towards the establishment of the library and the site was supplied free of charge by the Hull corporation. The library was opened on Tuesday 18th April 1905 by Sir James Reckitt, Chairman of the Library Committee.

Hull's Carnegie Heritage Centre

The building was designed by Joseph Henry Hirst, the City architect, who also built the City Hall and the Beverley Road Baths. The half-timbered design is in the 'Domestic Revival' style, and is Grade II listed. It remained open as a library for very many years before closing in 2001 after which it was briefly occupied by 'Sure Start' who left in 2006. Rather than to see this remarkable building decline, an Action Group was formed to establish an informal venue providing a comprehensive resource for the people of Hull, and others, to research local and family history.

It is run by volunteers and is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30-2.30pm for the public to enter, ask questions and carry out their own research. The centre contains a vast resource, including a searchable database of old Hull photographs, box files of newspaper cuttings, an extensive local history library, their own publications, and a book bindery service, all within this attractive galleried building.

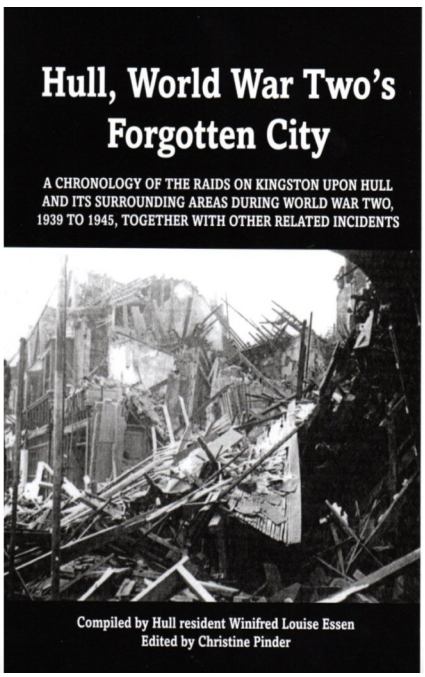
The Centre operates a 'help desk' on Monday early afternoons, also runs courses on Family History, holds a number of Local history talks on Wednesday mornings, and has an extensive on-line shop with local and other history books.

For full details see: **https://carnegiehull.org.uk/**

Text and Photograph by Dick Lidwell

Christmas present idea……

Between 1939 and 1945, air raid warnings sounded 823 times in Kingston upon Hull. We know this thanks to the detailed chronology kept by Hull resident Winifred Louise Essen, which is published here for the first time. Winifred served as a fire guard during the latter part of the war and kept a hand written chronology of bombing activity, damage reported, casualties, and other aspects of life in Hull during World War Two. This published edition, edited by Christine Pinder, provides a unique insight into the impact of the war on Hull and the surrounding areas, the extent of which was not widely acknowledged at the time.



For further details see: **https://carnegiehull.org.uk/** and go to 'Shop', 'Bookstore'.

A Little Street Sign Story

Earlier this year we were approached by a member living near the Minster who expressed concern about damage to one of the St John Street signs. She was concerned that it would be replaced by the new standard modern sign.

Before

We notified ERYC's street scene team and made a request that a suitable replacement sign would be erected respecting the character of the Minster Conservation area. The request didn't fall on deaf ears, and the St John Street sign has been restored, admittedly not with an identical cast sign as still existing at the southern end of the street, but with a new style Heritage sign: thank you ERYC.

Text and Photographs by Dick Lidwell

After

Speedy repair work at St Mary's Manor, North Bar Within.

14th October - Disaster!

11th November - Success!

A great example of what can be achieved where there's the will.

Text and Photographs by Dick Lidwell

The Scott Family of architects and their work in East Yorkshire
The 9th Margaret Powell Memorial Lecture – David Neave

Margaret Powell moved to Beverley in 1964, living in North Bar Within, and quickly became involved in trying to preserve the town from the ill-advised plans of local authorities and developers. She worked with the Royal Fine Art Commission and notables, such as Sir John Betjeman, to highlight the irrevocable damage that would be done to Beverley by various horrendous road schemes. Perhaps her sterling support for the preservation of the town should be no surprise, given that she was a descendant of the illustrious Scott family whose architecture has left a fine legacy of buildings in East Yorkshire, throughout the UK, and further afield.

Margaret's great grandfather Sir (George) Gilbert Scott, the designer of the Albert Memorial and the hotel at St Pancras Station, had close family connections with Hull. His uncle John, was vicar of St Mary Lowgate, where he was followed as vicar by a son and grandson, both called John. Opposite the church the Wetherspoons pub (former Edwardian GPO) is called the *Three John Scotts* in their honour. The founder of the family 'dynasty' however. was a Revd. Thomas Scott, the son of a Lincolnshire farmer, who became known for Bible commentary. His younger son, Thomas Scott, was Gilbert's father, and this family line was to design or restore 523 churches, 46 Cathedrals, 201 public buildings and 51 schools and universities.

Gilbert Scott was initially involved in the building of Workhouses, following the 1834 Poor Law Act, designing 40 of them, but his greatest local legacy lies in the churches he designed or restored. Scott became interested in the Gothic Revival and the work of Pugin. The reawakened interest in medieval churches owed much to the Oxford movement and the Catholic Revival and this, in part, impacted on Scott's work.

Local churches owing their restoration to Scott include St Helen's in Welton and includes stained glass made by William Morris and designed by Edward Burne Jones, lifelong friends. Scott also restored and enlarged St Mary's, Lowgate, and completed restoration of Holy Trinity, including the Chantry Chapels on the South side. In designing Sewerby Church, Scott was involved in seemingly endless debate with the owner of Sewerby Hall, Yarburgh Greame, regarding the style, the chancel screen, the towers and the size of the chancel. In Beverley itself, Scott was involved on 2 separate occasions in St Mary's church. In 1864-7 he designed the nave, pews, pulpit and eagle lectern. In 1875-6, he refitted the chancel. In the Minster he completed a survey in 1865 resulting in the cleaning of the interior stonework and the redecoration of the roof. In 1875 the wooden choir screen was carved by James Elwell at a cost of £3,000.

Further afield, his work included the design of the St Nikolai Kirche in Hamburg.

Knighted in 1872, he died in 1878 and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

One of his son's, also George Gilbert Scott, also became a notable architect. His interest lay in the late Middle and the Renaissance. He founded Watts and Company, who became purveyors of church furniture, linens and textiles. Amongst his best known buildings are St Agnes Anglican Church, Kennington Park (destroyed) and, after his conversion to Catholicism, the Roman Catholic Cathedral at Norwich. In East Yorkshire, he restored and extended Great Driffield church, and the eight Queen Anne Houses on Salisbury Street, in the Avenues, Hull

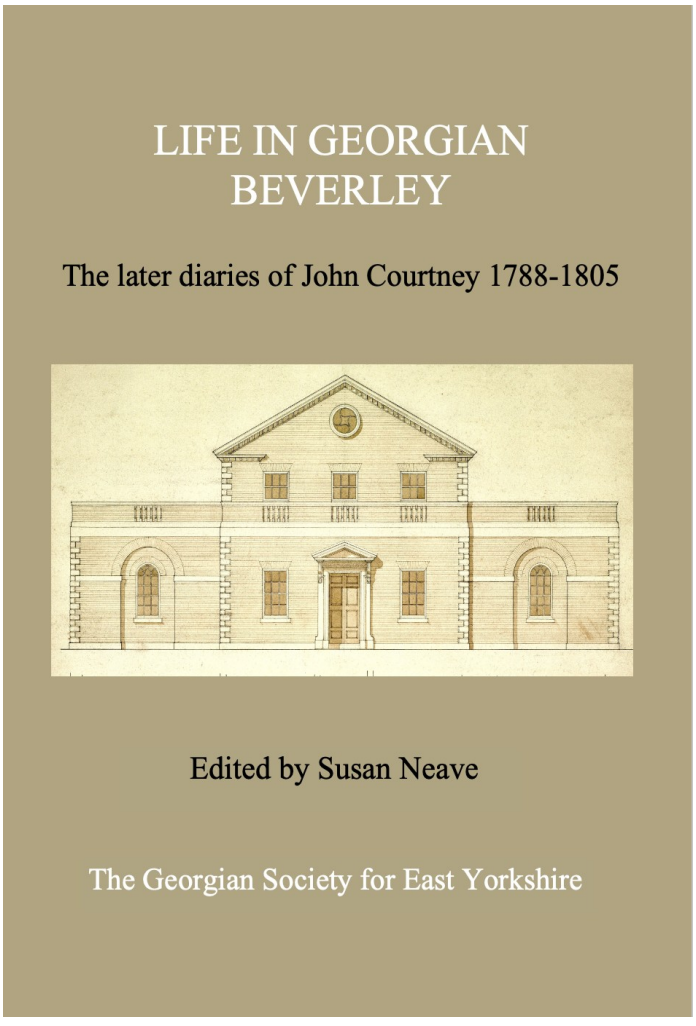
Plagued by mental health problems and declared insane, he was greatly helped by one of his pupils, Temple Moore, who became one of the great Victorian church architects. He designed the church and Eleanor Cross at Sledmere, and Highfield House in Driffield.

In turn, Moore's pupil was George Gilbert Scott's junior's son, Giles Gilbert Scott, the designer of Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, Battersea Power Station and the iconic telephone kiosk. His brother, Adrian was also an architect and designed, along with churches and other buildings, 5 Frognal Way, Hampstead, where Margaret Powell was brought up. Other family members included Richard Gilbert Scott who designed the Guildhall Art Gallery in the City of London and Elisabeth Scott who designed the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre.

It was a great pleasure to welcome Margaret Powell's daughter Barbara, granddaughter Hannah, and great granddaughter Josie to the Memorial lecture, to celebrate both the inspiring work of their family and the footprint they have left in Beverley, Hull and the East Riding .

Another Christmas present idea……

Members may have joined the Georgian Society on 25th October to hear Susan talk about her newly published transcription of John Courtney's diaries which give fascinating insights into life in Georgian Beverley.



"John Courtney, when living at Newbegin House, Beverley, kept a detailed diary from 1788 until 1805, the year before his death. In it he records much of his daily routine which largely involved attendance at meetings at Beverley's principal inns, the Tiger and Beverley Arms, meals with other members of the town's elite, and evening entertainments at the Assembly Rooms and theatre. He has much to say about the lives, illnesses and, in one case early death, of his seven children. Of particular interest are his accounts of visits to London and Leeds, and extended stays at the Yorkshire resorts of Bridlington, Scarborough and Ilkley. Written soon after the American War of Independence, and during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, the diary shows their impact on the life of a Georgian country town, with American Loyalists settling here, and the presence of numerous militia and army officers. At times the diary has the feel of a Jane Austen novel with the accounts of tea parties, musical evenings, dancing and elopements to Gretna Green."

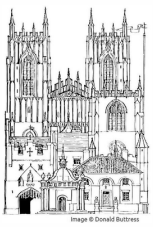
Available from the Beverley Book Shop.

Beverley Civic Society Event

Past and Present Taverns of Beverley -
a talk with photographs by Paul Schofield

7.30pm, Thursday 12 December 2024
St Mary's Church, Beverley
Non-members are welcome £5

MEMBER YHACS



CIVIC VOICE
talking civic sense