



BOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

February 2013

Registered Charity No 512420

Member of

CIVIC VOICE

Welcome to New Members
Mr and Mrs M J Willingham

Meetings

**Tuesday 26th February
at 7.30pm
Travels Abroad - Tony
Stubbs**

**All meetings at Baldocks
Mill**

**35th Annual General Meet-
ing 2013**

**Will be held on Wednesday
20th March at 7.30pm
At Baldocks Mill**

**Nominations for the election
of new committee members
should be made well ahead
of this date. Nomination
forms can be obtained from
the honorary secretary Rob-
ert Kitchener Tel No 01778
421891**

INDEPENDENT MUSEUM STATIS- TICS

- There are over 1,200 independent museums in the UK
- They attract 9 million visitors a year
- They provide nearly 6,000 jobs supported by 100,000 volunteers
- The sector is worth up to £930 million to the economy

Membership Subscriptions 2013

I am pleased to record the excellent response to the payment of subscriptions for this year. The majority of you paid up very promptly in January; so thank you. This is an immense help with our budgeting and your continued support and membership of the Society is greatly appreciated. I also thank those members who generously provide additional support with an added donation.

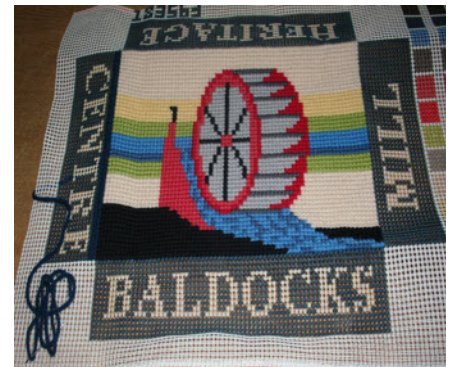
However, there are a few subscriptions still outstanding so please send them in as soon as possible.

We are always looking to enrol new members so if you can encourage people to join then that would be a big help.

A big thank you

The majority of the newsletters are now dispatched by email but there are some that require hand delivery and for this task we have a sterling team of people who brave the weather fronts and get the job done. My grateful thanks go to:- Elizabeth Brown, Tony Burke, Robert Fuller, Brenda Jones, Robert Kitchener, and Tony Stubbs. Their help is invaluable and is very much appreciated.

Lynette Fuller
Membership Secretary



Mrs A. Budd is nearing completion of the new kneeler for the Abbey church. This is a very complicated pattern of the water wheel now operating in Baldocks mill



Plaque outside the original headquarters in Henniker Mews Chelsea

Aston Martin Celebrates its Centenary

Aston Martin, the British luxury car maker, celebrates its 100th birthday this month.

It was on January 15th 1913 that the company was officially incorporated when Lionel Martin and Robert Bamford founded Bamford & Martin Ltd. It would later become Aston Martin in recognition of Bamford's success (in the first Bamford & Martin cars) at the Aston Hill climb in Buckinghamshire.

Responding to comments made by Nick Boles MP on Newsnight on 28th November stating that an area of land the size of Devon needs to be developed in England to match our housing needs, Steve Graham, Civic Voice CEO said

6 months ago the Government introduced a new National Planning Policy Framework which was lauded as the biggest change in the planning system in 50 years - that would be the springboard to growth. Civic Voice was pleased to have worked so closely with the Government on this, yet, only a few months later, we are now hearing from a relatively new Minister that we now need to build X houses in the countryside. We would have hoped the current legislation could have time to bed in before hearing statements such as this.

Civic Voice agrees with the Government that getting the economy moving is essential. Our concern is that growth should not occur at any cost and needs to be seen as part of a wider social and environmental agenda that is complementary and delivers on a wider vision for the long term. We believe brownfield sites should be developed before any greenfield sites, let alone green belt land.

Steve added, "While we agree with the Planning Minister that we need to build more houses due to an increasing population, and that the quality of new house-building should be improved, we disagree that using green field land will solve all the current problems within the housing market. Let's concentrate on bringing unused housing up to a liveable standard, redeveloping derelict and brown field sites and building affordable housing for those in need".

Civic Voice emphasises that there were 399,816 unbuilt homes with planning permission on 31 December 2011.

If the problem was demand, these homes would be built. The issue is a lack of accessible finance with lenders far more cautious since the 2008 credit crunch, many people can no longer get mortgages, reducing demand and making many developments unviable. Steve concluded "We would hope this announcement from the Minister is a personal thought and not one that will

be coming Government policy any time soon. We need to stop this policy merry-go-round and take stock on whether current measures are working or not and build confidence with communities and developers alike."

"If you care about the future of your local neighbourhood then write now to your MP"

Griff Rhys Jones.
Civic Voice President

A letter from one of our members to the Times in reply to a letter by Mr C. Padley.

Sir. C. Padley demonstrates the danger of people in positions of influence not being prepared to face the facts. Developers keep saying "only 9 per cent" (it sounds better than "only 10per cent") of our land is developed, and now they are joined by politicians such as Nick Boles. For millennia only a tiny fraction of our land was developed. The percentage soared to its present level only in a few generations. It has already caused the destruction of England's wildernesses, as well as much of its wildlife, and that is getting worse all the time. Of course Mr Boles is a politician, only interested in the short term, but his apparent lack of understanding of these longer-term truths does him little good, let alone his claim that humanity has a moral right to carry on in this way.

A Jennings London.

Planning will never be easy. Many conflicting views have to be taken into consideration. Sometimes we disagree, but what is essential is we all have an opportunity to have our voice heard.

'Nimby' fight of planning minister's parents.

The parents of the planning minister are opposing proposals for a housing development in their village because they fear overcrowding.

Sir Jack Boles and his wife Anne, have raised objections to a development of 21 houses on fields adjacent to the village church in Talaton Devon. They believe the development, which they would see from their house, is too big for the village. Sir Jack a former director of the National Trust, even planted a leylandii hedge so he could block the view.

Rate relief protection update.

Following the call from AIM and others urging the Government to ensure that mandatory charity business rates relief is fully protected in the Local Government Finance Bill, the issue has received support in the House of Lords, as well as from council leaders, and Baroness Hanham, parliamentary under-secretary of state in the Department of Communities & Local Government, has indicated she is prepared to talk further. Charities are concerned that the bill's provisions may prevent local authorities' support for charitable projects. AIM Bulletin.

Civic Voice and AIM Are both campaigning on behalf of Civic Societies in the country.