



BOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

August 2013

Registered Charity No 512420

Member of

CIVIC VOICE

Over the years several Society members have given interesting and enlightening talks at our monthly meetings. Do you have an interest, hobby, knowledge or career that you could share with fellow members? Bill Peasley is preparing a programme of events for 2014 and would love to hear from you. You can contact him via email (wpeasley@btinternet.com) or phone 01778 421341.

The next meeting at Baldocks

Mill is on Wednesday 11th September entitled "Battle over Bourne 1941"

The Christening Exhibition will start on Saturday 10th August at 2pm. All members are welcome. If anybody has anything that they think would be suitable to display could they please get in touch with Brenda on 424740

The Exhibition is expected to run until Sunday 8th September. The mill will open each day from 2 till 4pm while the exhibition is running. Please volunteer your time for a session as this would help Brenda & Jim.

José Frollán González. Racing driver, born on October 5th 1922. He died on June 15th 2013.

José González and Juan Fangio both drove for BRM.

Fangio and Gonzalez both joined BRM in April 1952, to drive the new BRM V16 racing car.

Quote from Gonzalez, I am delighted to be in this Beautiful country and to be able to examine this jewel of a car.

The BBQ at the Outdoor Pool was a success and the weather was perfect.



Bourne outdoor swimming pool

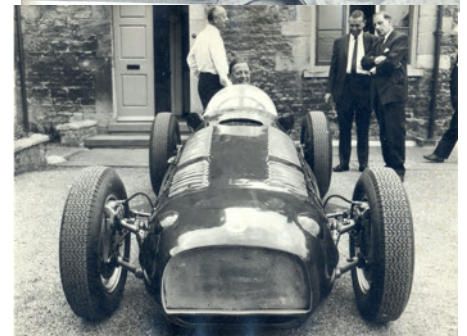
Bourne Rotary Club came to the mill with a group of Australians who were visiting the Town and later a cricket match was held on the Abbey lawn

Civic Voice Annual Convention 2013 will be hosted by Merseyside Civic Society and will be held on the weekend of 25th /26th October in Liverpool.

Pulleys from Wherrys Mill the new development are in the Mill Room.

Classic Car Day in June went well and the Mill had lots of visitors.

Two researchers have been going through the BRM archives. They came to Bourne to look at the collection of BRM Trophies on the recommendation of Mr David Owen. They will be returning later in the year.



V16 B.R.M

John Evans (1817-99) Bourne bird preserver

by REX NEEDLE

Taxidermy was a popular craft in Victorian times and many wild birds and animals were preserved in this way, mounted in glass cases or under glass domes to adorn the homes of our more affluent citizens.

Bourne became well-known for this animal artistry through the work of John Evans who practised from his workshop premises in West Street for fifty years until the close of the 19th century during which time he stuffed and preserved large numbers of rare and uncommon species that had been killed in the locality, many of which have since become extinct.

The first recorded example of his work comes from the summer of 1850 when a flight of curlews flew over Bourne and four of them were shot by a gamekeeper employed by landowner at Dyke. In the years that followed, he also preserved a red-backed shrike, peregrine falcons, hen harriers, honey buzzards, Bohemian waxwings, a Manx shearwater, a puffin and a bittern.

There were many more species and John Evans' reputation soon spread countrywide and he was also called on to preserve rare animals, usually displaying them when finished in the front window of his shop for passers-by to inspect before sending them off to his customers.

His clients included many famous people from among the titled and landed gentry, stately homes such as Burghley House, near Stamford, and Grimsthorpe Castle, near Bourne, and army officers serving in India who often sent home the skins of animals, including a tiger and a panther, for his attention.

But birds were his main preoccupation although by the end of his career, protest groups were springing up to prevent such practices, eventually leading to the formation of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in 1899. He continued working until 1898 when he moved to Ely to live with relatives where he died in 1899, aged 83.

His work output appears to have been prodigious yet I have been unable to trace much of it, apart from a kestrel which is on display in Peterborough Museum, and I am trying to find other examples that may have survived in order to photograph them to illustrate my article on Evans for the history of Bourne.

Although stuffed birds no longer have the popular appeal that they commanded in Victorian times, there must be many still on show in the homes of our older residents who live in the Bourne area and if any has a glass case of stuffed birds then they must surely be the work of John Evans. If so, please get in touch and perhaps we could arrange for me to come along and take a photograph.

Email rex@which.net or contact me through Jim and Brenda.

Our Mission Statement

It is the aim of the Society to make sure that new developments are of the highest possible quality and developers are made aware of the issues surrounding their schemes. Good design is only possible through a full understanding of any scheme's environment and urban context. We seek to safeguard our existing heritage and the many listed buildings from demolition or neglect.