



# BOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

February 2014

Registered Charity No 512420

Member of

CIVIC  
VOICE

### Meetings

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at  
7.30pm**

**Peterborough in Detail.  
Toby Wood – David Jost**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at  
7.30pm**

**36<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual General Meeting.**

**Nominations for the elec-  
tion of new committee  
members should be made  
well ahead of this date.**

**Nomination forms can be  
obtained from the hono-  
rary secretary Robert  
Kitchener Tel No 01778  
421891.**

**The civic society would wel-  
come new members on the  
committee.**

**A Good turnout on Tues-  
day 21<sup>st</sup> for our talk giv-  
en by our member  
Jonathan on “Railways  
of Bourne”. We had visi-  
tors who were very en-  
thusiastic and want to  
come again as a group to  
look around the mill.  
Civic Society DVD of  
Bourne Railways, now on  
sale £5.00 plus p&p.**

### Membership Subscriptions 2014

I am pleased to record the excellent response to the pay-  
ment 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 sup-  
port and membership of the Society is greatly appreciated.  
I also thank those members who generously provide addi-  
tional support by adding a donation to their subscription.  
However, there are a few subscriptions still outstanding so  
please continue supporting the Society and 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,  
Bill Peasley and Tony Stubbs.

Their help is invaluable and is very much appreciated.

Lynette Fuller  
Membership Secretary

### ‘Peterborough in detail’

In 2012 Peterborough Civic Society published a book  
‘Peterborough and its villages in detail’. It contains a photographic  
celebration of the architectural details of buildings in and around  
Peterborough. Features from all kinds of buildings are included,  
from the Cathedral to the most modest chapel, from Burghley  
House to the terraced cottage.

At our meeting on 25 February, members of Peterborough Civic So-  
ciety will talk about the genesis of the book and share with us some  
of the 4000 photographs from which the book’s illustrations were  
chosen.

Afterwards you may be inspired to look around at the buildings in  
*our* town and villages in a different light!

## BRM Trail for Bourne

Six months ago Mrs Sally Sutcliffe, Business Studies Instructor and Head of Mays House at Bourne Academy was driving along listening to the radio when she heard a presenter talking about the Heritage Lottery Fund and the innovative ways in which it was being used. Having watched the excitement of her Mays House students the summer previously when helping with the BRM day set up she came up with the inspirational idea of applying for a Heritage Lottery grant to create a whole town trail to commemorate BRM in Bourne.

Just before Christmas the school was contacted by the Heritage Lottery fund with the tremendous news that the Shared bid between the school, the BRM Association, the Len Pick Trust, the Civic Society, and Bourne Preservation Society had been successful. Backed by the town council the bid for the town trail has become more than a good idea, it is a reality with plans afoot.

Led by Mrs Sutcliffe, this project is about bringing together the whole town from the people involved today to the people involved fifty years ago. School students will be working alongside retired motor mechanics, town historians and occasionally a town planner or member of the town council. In order to put together the town trail an insight is needed from the former employees together with the fresh viewpoint of the inquisitive youngster. The project aims to reach out not only to the town's people but also the much wider public as a celebration of an exciting and very successful time in British industry. Constructing the town trail is about knowing each building, devising the best route through the streets and taking into consideration the many more buildings of historical importance along the way. The trail itself will be marked by bronze plaques at pertinent intervals. Leaflets will have been designed and produced by students to accompany the town trail.

Part of this project is also to compile a filmed 'living memory' bank. Interactive films will then be used in the museum and short clips will also be used by the BRM Society and the Civic Society in talks about the history. BRM Association is constructing a website so the living memories will be available there too. Former employees will be filmed both individually and in groups.

The filming will be done by GCSE and A Level students as part of their coursework. All filming will be stored, edited and converted for use in a variety of media. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to be trained in recording, analysing and cataloguing living memories. Former employees will be invited into school to meet with small groups of students. Where car and engineering plans still exist, they will be scanned, compiled and logged along with the photos currently stored in boxes by the BRM Association and others. It is hoped that the project will provide a totally comprehensive collection of memories in a variety of forms for future display.

We have been overwhelmed by public support for the project. In addition to the organisations mentioned, we have had support from local townspeople, former employees and visitors to the town. The idea is met with enthusiasm and offers of help. We plan to share the project with the young people of the town through involvement of the other town schools. The project is very much about bringing the BRM history in the town to the attention of all generations. We want to make the BRM history accessible for everybody.

The project will commence in July 2014 with completion exactly a year later. Look out for regular updates, we will be ensuring this project is open to all and shared by all.

Isobel Copley. Bourne Academy

The next exhibition to be held at the Heritage Centre  
Will be The Great War 1914 – 1918  
We are looking for photographs and artefacts from that period.

### The Soldier's Penny

Bronze death plaques like the one shown here were sent to the next of kin of every commonwealth man or woman who lost their lives as a result of Great War service. The plaques were also known as the "Soldiers Penny", or the "Dead Man's Penny".

The plaques measure approximately 4 ¼ inches (121mm) and weight approximately 11¾ ounces (333gms). They were posted to the next of kin. Mr and Mrs Baldock lost two son's in the Great War. Mr Baldock must have turned the wooden holders for the two plaques they received for the loss of there son's. The Heritage Centre only have one plaque for Harold.

As early as October 1916 the Secretary of State for War, David Lloyd George set up a committee 'to consider the question of a memorial to be distributed to the next relatives of soldiers and sailors who fall in the war'.

The Government held a competition to design a small memorial plaque for the next of kin of the fallen.

The result of the competition, which had the King's approval, was officially announced in The Times on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 1918. The first prize of £250 went to Mr Edward Carter Preston of the Sandon Studios Society, Liverpool.

1,150,000 were eventually produced.



## Baldock's Mill

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the Mill at 21 South Street was occupied by Frederick and Annie Baldock who at the time of the First World war had three sons – all three went off to war sadly two were killed and one survived although he returned home wounded.

The youngest son Harold Baldock Boy Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class aged 17 years was accidentally killed on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1915 when HMS Natal, a 13,550 ton armoured cruiser, blew up in Cromarty harbour the explosion caused the death of 421 from a compliment of 704 the death toll included some visitors. The enquiry which followed concluded that faulty ammunition was the cause.

However in the late 1920's Able Seaman James McDade was recounting the story to his family – on that fateful day he was off duty being short of money could not afford to go ashore. Bored he wandered along to the aft magazine to have a chat with his friend who was on duty, approaching the magazine saw that his friend was working and smoking realising that should he be found with his friend smoking by the orderly officer both would be in trouble – he decided not to enter the magazine but went up on deck as he wandered along to the forward end the ship blew up he was thrown into the water apart from slight hypothermia survived.

His family remonstrated with him as to why he had not come forward at the enquiry he replied simply “well I was not asked anyway he was my mate”! Harold Baldock is not only commemorated in Bourne but also on the large Naval Memorial at Chatham.

The elder brother Lance Corporal Frank Baldock of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment was killed in action on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1915 on Scimitar Hill in the Suvla Bay area of Gallipoli – this action was a disaster for the 6<sup>th</sup> Lincolns who were under orders to relieve the troops on the Hill but unbeknown to the battalion the occupying troops had already been withdrawn and the enemy had reoccupied the area the resulting action saw many casualties to the battalion. The Gallipoli campaign was ill conceived badly executed - the capability of the Turkish troops with German support was woefully underestimated resulting in failure. Not only Frank Baldock who was married with a daughter was killed but also from Bourne Robert Benstead and Herbert Cleary ticket collector from the Bourne Station.

These men are commemorated on the Bourne memorial also in the Abbey church – they are commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, as they have no known graves.

A. L. Stubbs  
September 2013.



### 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.