



BOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

April 2016

Member of



Registered Charity No 512420

OBITUARY

THE SOCIETY HAS LOST ONE OF ITS LONG STANDING MEMBERS. ROBERT KITCHENER JOINED THE SOCIETY ON RETIRING FROM THE MERCHANT NAVY AND COMING TO LIVE IN BOURNE. HE WAS THE SECRETARY FOR MANY YEARS AND AT ONE TIME DID THE NEWSLETTER, ALSO HE ATTENDED MANY MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES AND CIVIC VOICE FORUMS. HE WILL BE SADLY MISSED BY US ALL AT THE CIVIC SOCIETY.

Monday 8th February David Mainwaring came and gave a talk about Morton and Hanthorpe and the way the villages had changed over the years.

The AGM was very well attended and we were pleased to have Lady Jane take the chair. We welcomed her comments. The Society has four new members on the committee. After the business Frank Wyer a local man read poetry in the Lincolnshire dialect, some of which he had written himself. He also had his book to sell.

VISITS TO THE HERITAGE CENTRE

90 children from Westfield School/Academy came as part of a "Walking Tour of Victorian /Dickensian Bourne.

A group from the Owen Family came with Rick Hall to look around and took away, on loan the cup that Jackie Stewart had won in Monaco in 1965.

The Masarati Owners Group called in at the Heritage Centre after they had been on a tour around Warner's, who print their magazine.

Visiting church group guided by Mr T Stubbs

We are hoping to hold a 60s exhibition during August.

The Story of the Famous ERA R4D

The story R4D, one of Bourne's famous racing cars and once Raymond Mays' personal car,

is about to be told in a new book. Its author is Mac Hulbert who owned and raced the car for

10 years or more. Mac has been working on the book for some time, that is in as much time his

Worldwide lecture tours allowed. The Civic Society helped a little by providing him with copies of some of the photographs held in its Raymond Mays Archive.

The book will be published in June. Its publisher is Porter Press International, which is noted for its

quality books on famous cars. Expect a price of £60.

R4D is now about to enter a new chapter. Mac parted company with the car a few months ago,

but the good news about that is it will remain in the UK and will still be seen taking part in

appropriate events

Peter Puterill



Meetings

Wednesday 13th April

50 years of Travel

Tony Stubbs

Wednesday 11th May

Bourne Bone Yard

Eddie Lunn

**All Meetings at Baldocks Mill
7.30 start**

How Baldock's Mill got its name
by REX NEEDLE

The use of the name Baldock for Baldock's Mill will be familiar to many but newcomers to the town may be puzzled by its origins and so a word of explanation will be useful.

Mills powered by both wind and water were used in England for over a thousand years and by the early 19th century, there were about 10,000 of them, usually grinding grain. The man in charge was always known as the miller and by tradition he gave his name to the mill by which it soon became known.

Although Bourne did have several windmills, the town is best known for its watermills, three of which were powered by the Bourne Eau although two have been demolished, Cliffe's Mill in West Street (1910) and Notley's Mill in Eastgate (1973). This left just the one at No 21 South Street, a water mill mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and which we know today as Baldock's Mill, now home of the Heritage Centre. The original mill has long gone and the present building dates from 1800 and operated for well over a century. Successive millers from the 19th century were Robert Shilcock, William Townson and John Pocklington who continued until Frederick Baldock took over in 1905.

The mill wheel was 21 ft in diameter by 3 ft wide and there was a smaller fly wheel measuring 5 ft by 1 ft. Corn was brought in to be ground into animal feed by farmers and smallholders who paid for the grinding. Maize was also split for chicken feed and horse beans and a flour dresser provided sufficient for the family's own use. Two sets of stones operated on the first floor fed from hoppers on the floor above, the corn being lifted up from the ground floor where it had been previously delivered by a chain hoist driven, like the stones, by the wooden undershot water wheel. Access to the two upper floors by the miller was by ladders. The mill operated twice a day for three hours and this time was increased by the digging of the leg between the paddock that is now the War Memorial Gardens and the Wellhead cottage. After powering Baldock's Mill, the water then ran downstream and could be used by Notley's Mill in Eastgate. A gas engine was run at other times to provide power and as Frederick Baldock also ran a carpentry and timber business from the premises, the small wheel also kept his saw bench in operation.

The wheel collapsed around 1924 and the Marquess of Exeter who then owned the building decided not to repair the damage because it was uneconomical and so the wheel and machinery were removed although the mill race which turned the wheel can still be seen within the building and the wheel has since been restored. Frederick Baldock retired in 1930 when his son, Jack, took over and after his death in the summer of 1960, aged 66, his wife and daughter continued living there until 1968 and so the Baldock family were associated with the mill for more than sixty years.

The building was listed Grade II in 1973 and in 1981, Bourne Civic Society sought permission to turn it into a Heritage Centre and the present owners, Bourne United Charities, leased the building for a peppercorn rent in order that it could be preserved for community use. This lease was renewed in 2002 for a further 21 years and the full potential of the building in this new role is still being realised.

★ This article is reproduced from A PORTRAIT OF BOURNE, the definitive history of the town on CD-ROM and an order form to obtain a copy may be downloaded from the Bourne web site at www.bourne-lincs.org.uk

Miller

Frederick Baldock (1863-1938) and his wife Annie (1868-1938)



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 of 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.