



BOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

August 2016

Member of



Registered Charity No 512420

The Bourne Civic Society welcomes our new members Godfrey and Carolyn Cullum

Next Meeting Thursday 15th
September 2016

Speaker Jane Bradley
Farming in Grimsthorpe

Baldocks Mill at 7.30 pm

Baldocks mill have had many visiting groups over the last few weeks starting with the The Legion Ladies Group who had afternoon tea and a film. The following week we hosted the Cameo Group from the Salvation Army for afternoon tea and a film. The same evening we had a group from Crowland Abbey who are trying to start a Heritage Centre in Crowland and were looking for advice and ideas. Monday we had the Stamford Twinning group in with their French visitors so Baldocks Mill is well and truly on the map.

Trevor Wand has donated 3 Glass Cabinets to Baldocks Mill and two are in the Worth room and the other one is on the top floor.

Steve Buffery from Lincolnshire Bow Windows very kindly sent his men to install new glass either side of the mill race so now we can all see the two wheels going round.

BOURNE IN BLOOM

On Thursday 14th July the town was judged as part of the "Bourne in Bloom" Competition. The judges walked round the Conservation Area of the town, came to the mill and then did the rest of the area by car. The results will be known later in the year.

The 60s Exhibition will run until Heritage Weekend which is September 11th and so that will be the last day of the Exhibition. The society will need members to man the mill on every day that the mill will open from 2pm until 4pm. Please get in touch with the Chairman or call in the mill to look on the calendar for the dates you wish to do. More items are needed knick knacks and 60s clothes or other items related to the 60s. We start to put the Exhibition together on Monday morning and we will be at the mill each day until the Sunday when the Town Mayor will declare the Exhibition open at 2pm. All are welcome.

Next Year 2017

Next year, Civic Day will be held on 17th June 2017 and we will be asking groups across the country to help use Civic Day as a focus to celebrate 50 years of conservation areas. We want the nation to come together to say "my conservation area matters" and participate in local and national events to recognise how conservation areas have helped keep many of our towns distinctive.

See below some of the ways your civic society could celebrate 50 years of conservation areas for Civic Day.

- Publish a leaflet on the history of the area
- Organise a guided walk
- Organise a street party
- Erect a "conservation area plaque/sign"
- Undertake local membership drive
- 'Clean your Conservation Area': litter pick
- Placecheck : ask what do we like and what don't we like
- Debate – the Big Conservation Conversation: future of conservation areas
- Competitions – why "My Conservation Area Matters"
- Campaign for greater resources
- Create new groups to protect conservation areas

The place for education and healthy recreation
by REX NEEDLE

The imposing building on the corner of St Peter's Road is a perfect example of Victorian ostentation. No 63 West Street was once a farmhouse but during the 19th century its wealthy owner gave it a Gothic style façade, the porch containing ballflower decoration and wheat sheaf capitals while the date 1872 was included in the arch rosette above the upper window on the side of the front. The owner's initials J G are also visible to the discerning eye in a similar position above the upper central window.

This reminds us that the original red brick house and grain store attached once belonged to Mr John Gibson, a corn merchant and brewer, who improved the property in that year, adding the imposing stone front and stained glass windows that depict the four seasons of the barley growing cycle which is also featured in the decoration over the front door.

He lived there with his family for 25 years until he got into financial difficulties and in 1896, the premises were rented out to a newly formed social organisation in the town which began after a public meeting had been called by leading citizens and an elected committee was empowered to secure suitable premises for the purpose.

It became known as the Bourne Institute, a non-sectarian, non-political organisation intended to stimulate healthy recreation, education and mutual intellectual improvement, and to provide facilities for a wide range of social activities including a music room with a piano, musical and debating societies, billiards and other games, and a modest library.

The new venture was an immediate success and in 1899 sufficient money had been raised to purchase the property. By then, the institute had become the focal point for the town's social life and although membership was originally confined to men, ladies were being admitted by the end of the century.

In July 1953 one of the rooms was leased to Kesteven County Council for use as a branch library for Bourne at an initial rental of £1 a week and although the original agreement was for a five-year period, it continued until 1969 when the town's present library was opened in South Street.

Snooker had by now replaced billiards as the most popular game at the Bourne Institute and in 1975 it was renamed the Pyramid Club, an organisation owned by its members and which still flourishes today.

★ This article is reproduced from A Portrait of Bourne, the definitive history of the town on CD-ROM. A copy of the disc may be obtained by emailing bournehistory@btinternet.com



Archive photograph
Bourne Institute 1900

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