



# BOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Member of

**CIVIC  
VOICE**  
talking civic sense

October 2016

Registered Charity No 512420

### Obituary

Graham Benn a member for many years, he also gave talks to the Civic Society

Sunday 27th November 2016  
Christmas wine and Nibbles at Brenda and Jim,s

Christmas Quiz  
In Wake house on Monday 19th December at 7.30

### Visiting Groups

#### VINTAGE CARS IN BOURNE

A Group of Vintage Cars visited the town on Thursday morning and were welcomed at the Heritage Centre/Baldocks Mill by Brenda and Jim Jones. After looking around and asking questions, Dick Salmon who worked for Raymond May's was there to answer them. Later that morning a Vintage Delaine bus came and took them to the old works and also to the house in Eastgate where Raymond May's lived all of his life. The group had been staying at the Toft Hotel since Sunday and had been touring round the area.



### Town Mayor

The new Town Mayor gave the Bourne Civic Society, a good review in the last issue of Discovering Bourne

### Latest News

#### Bourne in Bloom

The town received the Silver Award, at the East Midlands award ceremony. Baldocks Mill received the Judges award

### 1960s Exhibition

We would like to thank all who helped setting up the 60s exhibition and manning Baldocks Mill. The exhibition was well attended during the Heritage open days. Good comments in the visitors book.



### Down Your Way October 1971

Old reel to reel tapes in Baldocks Mill archive have been converted on a new CD format.

Franklin Englman the BBC presenter interviewed the town's people in Bourne, Dr J. Galletly. Sister G. Bristow. Mrs D. Stanton. Mr T. Barthorpe. Station Officer Mr G. Owen. Mr R. Mays.

We are looking for photographs of the following people, Sister Bristow, Mrs D. Stanton. Mr T. Barthorpe. Station Officer Mr G. Owen.

### October meeting

Monday 17th October 2016  
Venue Wake House at 7.30pm  
The Speaker is Mr Gerald Taylor of the CPRE (Chairman)

### Notice for change of Venue

Next year all meetings will be in Wake House. Because some of our members do not like all the stairs at the mill. This is going to be on a trial run, to see if we get more members to attend the meetings.

### 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 By PP

When the gas works lit our streets, homes

and offices

by REX NEEDLE

The gasworks served Bourne for more than a century, producing coal gas to provide light and heat for much of the town until electricity started to compete because of its cleaner operation and safer installation.

The country's first commercial gasworks was built in London in 1812 and others soon followed, the Bourne Gas Light and Coke Company being formed in 1840 with premises in Eastgate, erected at a cost of £2,000 and the first project was to install gas lighting in the Abbey Church.

The Eastgate premises, now known as Gas House Yard, were enlarged in 1868 to meet the demand and again in 1878 when the mains were laid as far as the Market Place. By this time, coal gas was being used for heating and lighting in homes, shops and business premises, as well as for street lighting with 56 incandescent gas lamps at various points around the town which were lit on dark evenings.

Central to the supply system was the gasometer, a massive metal telescopic holder containing the domestic supply ready for distribution. Three were eventually erected to serve the town, each bigger and better than before, the last with a capacity of 40,000 cubic feet being installed in 1908.

The Bourne Gas Light and Coke Company ceased trading on 31st March 1914 and went into liquidation prior to being sold to Bourne Urban District Council which paid almost £14,000 for the business. In 1934 the service was extended to Dyke when the urban council laid a mains pipe to the village and the streets were lighted with gas lamps for the first time.

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Re-organisation of the gas supply industry brought about the closure of the gasworks in 1957. The Eastgate buildings were demolished in 1960 and the new BRM workshops were built on the site although the huge gasometer remained in use on the opposite side of the road for several years. By 1965, Bourne's supply was being piped in from North Killingholme on Humberside and there were 1,400 consumers in the town with the demand rising steadily.

Responsibility for gas distribution subsequently passed from the council to the East Midlands Gas Board and then to British Gas in 1973 and our supply no longer comes from coal but from the North Sea and is brought into the town through a complicated pipeline network from the east coast.

† 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](mailto:bournehistory@btinternet.com)

Archive photograph shows the gasworks being demolished in 1960.

