



# BOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June 2017



Registered Charity No 512420

## Obituary

Norman Williamson a longstanding member of Bourne Civic Society.

His son has donated Items of interest to Baldocks Mill.

New Member Welcome to our new Member Julie Gibbs.

## June Meeting

A tour around the Town Hall and hear future plans.

Meet at the Town Hall at 7.00

Community Award made by the Town Council, to Brenda and Jim Jones.

Paul Fellows elected as Town Mayor, his wife Judith Fellows will be his Consort.

All members of Bourne Civic Society.

Friday 7th July, Garden Party at Brenda and Jim,s home. Please let Brenda know if you are coming.

Starting at 7.00pm , £5.00 each.

No meeting in August - summer holidays

.64 Stephenson way

Groups visiting the Heritage Centre  
A newly formed WI group (called Worth) visited the Heritage centre, and found inspiration from the Worth Gallery for their new Logo for the Worth WI. A new group about to be formed visited, they are forming a trail from Bourne to Peterborough on to Crowland Abbey. The history of Hereward the Wake.

Three Groups are booked to visit the Heritage centre in the summer months and enjoy afternoon tea, these groups add income to our funds.

Civic Voice Trustee, David Evans visits Bourne Civic Society.  
The Bourne Civic Society, founded in 1977 to fight for conservation and good planning in Bourne runs many other activities including lectures, tours and visits. They take a great interest in their town past, present and future. They recently invited David Evans Civic Voice Trustee to give a talk on the work of the wider civic movement.

As part of his visit to Bourne, David learnt that Bourne are a totally independent and non- political body who actively monitor planning and development in Bourne. They have given evidence at a number of Public Inquires and continue to take a firm line on many important planning matters. David was delighted to learn that the Society manages a heritage centre and museum at Baldocks Mill that features three major display: the Raymond May's exhibition, the Charles Worth Gallery and a gallery of Bourne's history and heritage. The Mill has a shop selling a range of gifts and publications, pamphlets and maps relating to Bourne and the specialist displays.

During his talk, David described the role of Civic Voice in promoting civic pride, working with government at all levels on key issues and rewarding good design practice nationwide. He also outlined its work on surveying the condition of war memorials as part of the commemoration of the First World War. He explained the importance of the societies coming together under one voice with Civic Voice.

He highlighted the importance of partnership working to achieve great results and praised the work of the Society in managing Baldocks Mill, the only remaining mill in the town at over 200 years old. The Domesday Book gave Bourne three mills and there has been a mill on this site since 1066.

Article from Civic Voice Newsletter.

New group forming to be called The Wakehereward Society

September 2017 will be the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the return of the outlaw Hereward to England to fight the Normans in East Anglia. He was an important local and national figure that led to the resistance to William the Conqueror from his fenland stronghold in Ely.

Sadly he is in danger of being lost to history and his name and his story has largely been forgotten even by the people of the fens. During this period of change and uncertainty links with the past and a sense of continuity become even more important.

A talk will take place in Baldocks Mill on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7 30pm. This is part of "Heritage Open Days" which will run for the 4 days from the Thursday to the Sunday.

## Our new member Jullie Gibbs

Has been busy compiling a new walk around the town. This walk is to encourage children to walk around the town and find places on the map and identify them.

The launch of the map will be at a later date in the year.



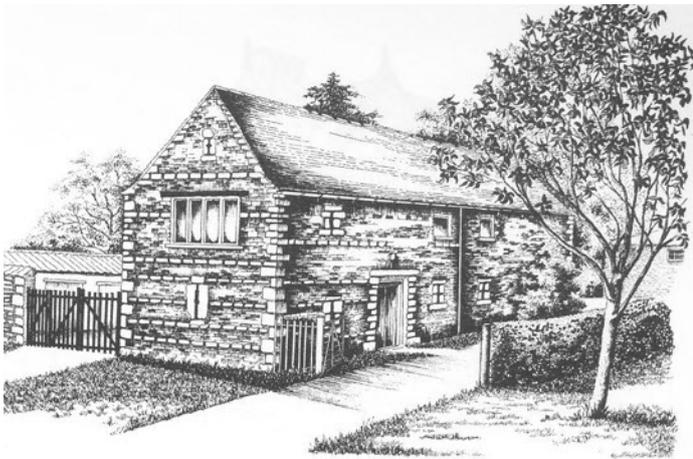
Ancient cowshed still provides a useful service  
by REX NEEDLE

Grassy mounds in the Wellhead Gardens are all that remain of the castle which is reputed to have stood here in past times. Although tradition has it that this was a Saxon stronghold and birthplace of Hereward the Wake, leader of the English resistance to William the Conqueror, there is no mention of it in the Domesday Book of 1086 and so any fortification that did exist would have been of Norman origin.

The castle was finally destroyed in mediaeval times and it is generally accepted that the materials were salvaged for other buildings in the vicinity including the nearby Shippon barn which probably dates from the 18th century and its period charm now enhances this part of the park. The report of an archaeological excavation of the castle site in 1861 also claimed that certain stones that had been incorporated in the end of the building were the exterior sections of the crossbow slits that had once been part of the castle's south wall although this may have been mere speculation and the apertures were most probably purpose built for ventilation.

Arrow slits were not apparent in military architecture until towards the end of the 12th century and it would appear that the openings in the Shippon barn were designed to be functional for the care of livestock, the word *shippon* being derived from the old English word *shippen* meaning a cattle shed or cowhouse, and so a permanent means of circulating the air and allowing gases to escape would be necessary. They also compare favourably with those which can be found in other old stone barns in the locality.

The Shippon barn stands today within the town's Conservation Area designated in July 1977 and is Grade II listed. It is situated close to the main footpath across the Wellhead Gardens and during the 1930s, it was used as a slaughterhouse where pigs were killed for meat sold by J G Mayfield and Company, pork butchers, with shop premises in West Street, Bourne. The immediate area was also filled with pig pens where the animals were raised, often leaving it in a muddy and untidy state. The barn was eventually purchased by the present owners, Bourne United Charities, which acquired the surrounding land in 1956 for the establishment of the Wellhead and War Memorial gardens, subsequently being converted for community use and since June 1977 it has been a meeting place for the local scouts and guides.



Drawing by Bill Normington



Picture by Rex Needle

**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.