



BOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June 2024 Registered Charity No 512420



April we had Richard Bailey who gave us an interesting talk about his 50 years in retailing and had some funny stories to tell us. All who came said they enjoyed the evening and Richard was well received.

June Sunday 16th a visit to Rippingale Station all places are taken up. Make your own way to the Station for 2pm. On that same day the Town Council have arranged a "Picnic in the Park" so the mill will open from 10am and your Chairman will be there to open and stay till 2pm

July Friday 5th A Social at the home of Brenda and Jim 64 Stephenson Way evening from 6 30pm till whenever supper is £5 each there will also be a Raffle this is a fund raising event for the mill.

August Sunday 11th 3pm start at Baldocks Mill a Walk around Bourne with Anthony Jennings ending with Tea and Cake at the Mill.

Civic Voice have recovered the money that was lost 2 years ago. It has taken a while for it all to be sorted out but the whole of the money has been recovered and back where it should be. Ian Harvey has been reinstated back on the Board of Trustees, full time. The Civic Voice is the mouth piece for all Civic Societies to get to the MPs. We hope all will be well for the future of Civic Voice as we still wish to be part of this organization and we hope they will go from strength to strength and will get more towns and cities to join.

We thank Martin Hamilton Chair of Civic Voice for keeping us informed.

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 many listed buildings from demolition or neglect.



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BOURNE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL and the WHITE FAMILY. 1842 - 1913

Thomas White, a cordwainer (boot & shoe maker) of West Street, Bourne, was one of a small group who founded the Congregational church in 1842. When the newly built chapel opened in 1846, Thomas White, his wife Mary and their family, including six-year-old George, attended the service. Thomas White became a trustee and deacon of the church.

The White family were Baptists by tradition, but, as son George recalled many years later, the church "was formed by a number of malcontents from the West Street church, where democratic views did not coincide with those of the minister at the time".

In the yard of the chapel there are several gravestones including a memorial stone to two of Thomas and Mary White's sons. John White (19) a cordwainer, died on June 1st 1852. William (28) a clerk to an auctioneer, died in London from typhus on August 25th. 1854.

Thomas and Mary's daughter, Sarah (25), married fellmonger Thomas William Mays (28) in September 1853 at the Baptist chapel. When Thomas Mays died in 1897 he was described as: "a leading member of the Congregational church of Bourne, his loss will create a gap that will be difficult to fill". Mrs Sarah Mays died in 1913. The funeral service at Bourne Cemetery was conducted by the Congregational minister Rev. J. Comyn Jones. Mrs Mays was actively involved with the temperance movement and the Womens Liberal Association. Among the less fortunate of Bourne, "especially in Eastgate, no more generous or warm-hearted friend could be found".

George White attended and later taught at the Sunday school from it's beginnings in 1847 until, aged 16, he moved to Norwich and became an office clerk for curriers and leather merchants, Tillyard and Howlett.

In 1899 a new Sunday school building containing a central hall and classrooms, was erected adjoining the Congregational chapel. Twelve years later, on November 1st. 1911, Bourne Congregational chapel was re-opened following major alterations, renovation and enlargement. A silver Key was presented to Sir George White MP, before he formally opened the door and led the congregation into the chapel for the service.

Just six months later, on May 15th 1912, a memorial service was held at the Congregational chapel for Sir George, a native of Bourne, an Old Brunnian and a trustee of the church for fifty years.

A tribute from Bourne non-conformists, published following news of the death of Sir George, included the following remarks: "We remember that with all his successes and honours, he always remained loyal to his old friends at Bourne and we feel that we shall never see his like again".

Joyce Stevenson.



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