



BOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2018



Registered Charity No 512420

Obituary Bette Hill

It is with sadness we learnt of the death on 8th December 2018 of Bette Hill, aged 91. A photo of Bette appeared in our last newsletter. She was seen undertaking the duties of keeping a lap chart, as well as timing the cars, for the BRM team. A task she undertook when her husband, Graham, drove for the team. She came to Bourne on several occasions, the last being in October 2012 when the 60th anniversary was celebrated of both BRM and their driver, Graham Hill, becoming World Champions. She was accompanied by her son Damon, also a World Champion Driver.

P.Putterill

Donations made to The Heritage centre.

BRM Association group donated a Touch screen computer. This is part of the ERA /BRM trail in Bourne that will end at the Heritage Centre (Baldocks Mill).

Items donated for the Raymond Mays room by Mr R. Twell a relation of Raymond Mays.

Donations made to the railway collection by Mrs D. Blackman.

A juvenile mammoth tooth found in the gravel pits at Baston, has been donated by Mr Robert Penhey.



Our 40th anniversary has been successfully celebrated with a photographic exhibition at Baldocks mill. Opened by the Town Mayor and his Lady Consort.

The committee have decided to extend the exhibition over Easter.



Photographs by Mr Jonathan Smith

April meeting Monday 16th "Women's Role in WW1" Speaker is Richard Pullen

May meeting Monday 21st Place Names Speaker is Anthony P Smith

June Monday 18th Visit to the Delaine Heritage Trust Museum meet at Delain's Bus depot, 7.00pm

June Tuesday 19th A Canadian History Group are visiting Bourne. This group have been to Bourne and had a look at the Mill and found it was suitable to perform these two plays. In the morning they are doing 2 workshops with the children at Westfield School. In the afternoon they will do a History Play at the Mill at 2 30pm tickets will be £3 each and are limited. In the evening at 7 30 they will perform another play at the mill and tickets are £3 the same and are limited also. Brenda has the tickets 424740 Both plays are only suitable for adults.

Now going on a bit further to September and Heritage Weekend, Saturday 8th we hope to have a Re-enactment of Hereward the Wake with Saxons and Normans more of this at a later date.

At the AGM the committee were voted En block again.

Chairman Mrs Brenda L Jones

Vice chairman Mr Jack Slater

Secretary Mr Bill Peasley

Treasurer Mr Jonathan P Smith

Committee Members are Mr Jim Jones and Mr Anthony Jennings
Wellcome to New members Mr Duncan and Mrs Gillian Ashwell

When Bourne adopted a warship
by REX NEEDLE

One of the great acts of patriotism in Bourne during the Second World War of 1939-45 was a drive to fund a warship for the Royal Navy. It was launched during Warships' Week, a patriotic appeal by the government for the public to dig deep into their pockets and provide the cash to finance new ships and the town responded magnificently.

The appeal in 1942 had a target of £35,000 to buy a minesweeper but in the event, £54,168 (£2.2 million at today's values) was collected and the town adopted HMS Beryl during an official ceremony at the Abbey Lawn when the Royal Navy handed over a plaque to mark the occasion. In return, Bourne Urban District Council gave a plaque that was eventually fixed to the ship and stayed there for the rest of the war.

The 650-ton ship chosen had a chequered history, originally built as a fishing trawler but was bought by the Admiralty in 1939 and renamed HMS Beryl, an auxiliary minesweeper, 150 feet long and powered by a 700 h p engine capable of 12 knots. The first commanding officer was Commissioned Bosun Harry Sellwood (later Lieutenant Commander) and after the ship had been adapted for minesweeping and anti-submarine work, he took it to Malta where it became involved in the long and bitter siege of the island during which action he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

HMS Beryl was sunk there during an attack in 1941 and remained submerged until refloated and repaired the following October. Two of her sister ships, Jade and Coral, were wrecked early in 1942 and so Beryl became the largest naval vessel remaining afloat at Malta, the lone bulwark in the campaign becoming nicknamed "the Flagship of Malta" by the islanders.

After the Malta campaign, HMS Beryl took part in the Sicily landings leading up to the invasion of Italy but was decommissioned when the war ended in 1945 and the following year was sold to the Iago Steam Trawling Company at Fleetwood in Lancashire and renamed the Red Knight. It continued fishing until 1963 when it was sold for demolition and so ended its days in a maritime scrap yard at Barrow-in-Furness.

But the ship and its commander have not been forgotten and in 2011 two street names at a new housing development in Manning Road were named Beryl Mews and Sellwood Terrace as a reminder of the part they played and Bourne's contribution to the war effort.



**New Display in the Heritage Centre
New Painting of HMS Beryl.
Donated By Mr A. Whyte of Bourne
2018**