

Bourne Civic Society

AGM Minutes 2005

The Society's 27th Annual Report to be laid before the members at the Annual General Meeting, on Thursday, March 17th 2005 at Baldock Mill.

This has been a very progressive year in all our activities. All who see the waterwheels in place admire the project. The one operational wheel has retained a consistent rotation without any further maintenance throughout the year. Next stages are on the planning board. The addition of Hereward the Wake to our display is thanks to the generosity of Skegness, and this is a permanent display.

We are very pleased to have taken on more modern equipment including computers to aid us in promoting the Society with its Heritage centre and for this we thank Jonathan Smith. We are grateful to Rex Needle for his excellent research work of Bourne and the neighbouring villages, the people and the historical record that is treasure we will look after. The inspiration of our Membership Secretary Lynette Fuller to move the Society forward and modernise has greatly benefited our aims and increased our membership.

Our Social meetings have been well supported by our regular few. This has caused us to re-arrange the top floor to gain more room, and provide a better set up for illustrated talks. During the year a few out of town events of interest to our membership have been advertised in the newsletter at the appropriate time. Our walks around town including a guided tour are interesting, to both guide and guided. Our visitors welcome the hospitality and company. We are grateful to Robert Penhay and Michael McGregor for being guides often at short notice. The Heritage Centre has been open for viewing every weekend (2-4), Heritage days, and holiday times and on special request. We are very grateful to our volunteers who offer themselves as curators. With the contents increasing we are reassessing our contents insurance liability.

We are pleased to have had Robert Fuller, a professional in town planner with vast experience join us on committee and be Vice Chairman. Secretary is pleased to have the onerous responsibility of local planning soon to be LDC planning taken off the Secretary's desk. The new Planning Act will affect Bourne particularly, The Croft and growth areas being suggested by SKDC. A major estate such as the Stamford Homes that began as a fixed number of dwellings and now been enlarged when more land strangely became available. For 15th March we prepared a strong representation about the proposed "Croft development" being unsuitable and undesirable at this location. Study of the LDC planning suggests we have a strong case, but the inspector doing the enquiry fell ill, so our case is unheard. We express our views clearly and often in the press, as a like thinking society. The authorities and press often call for our views, suggestions, opinions or help. We have made constructive suggestions for Chapel of Rest at Bourne Cemetery; have a Steering Committee for the "Old Grammar School" under Chairman Mark Horn; Suggested constructive ideas for "The Croft"; Planned a prominent part in "The Core" development.

We have attended all TCMP meetings and in this respect we have played a very significant role. At the same time we need to be seen to modernise, and be forward thinking. Street cleaning, late night revelling noise, demolishing unused buildings, car-parking and traffic chaos have all factors this year. Robert Fuller was praised for his submission on Shop Front design. Secretary attended all East Midlands Amenities Ass. (EMASA) Meetings were attended and also two meetings of East Midlands Heritage Forum (EMHF). At the former details of new planning regulations (huge book) were fully explained and at the latter there was the launch of Heritage Counts, with great media coverage.

Six of our members joined the “Away Day” event organised by EMASA, for a full day event in Leicester. There is another one this year, on Sat. June 18th hosted by Newark

We have constantly been expressing our concern to Bourne United Charities (BUC) about the condition of Baldock Mill but unfortunately they seem unconcerned. While they own the property, there are limits to our maintaining and improving that are frustrating when reasonable suggestions are ignored. The outside appearance is rather uninviting, and our thanks are expressed to Jim Jones for his constant attention the building, creating a warmer atmosphere. The display of the exhibits is thanks to Jim and Brenda Jones and this is an ongoing process.

Our Society is indebted to Dr. Michael McGregor whose generous contributions from his books, Bourne History Picture Book and Raymond Mays Story benefits us greatly and required a reprint of the latter this year. We are most grateful to “Bourne Books” and other stalls who vend the books. Our monthly Social Meetings are another valuable source of income for we introduced a small charge this year. We are very grateful to our team of helpers who man the mill each weekend, on special holidays, and special events. This year 412 visitors saw the exhibitions, an encouraging rise on previous years. Our new promotion leaflet printed in December has gone to many outlets and other museums to promote the Mill Heritage Centre. Our own Web site is presently under construction, and details are obtainable from committee member.

The committee are relieved to know that despite all the comings and goings a full indent of items in the mill has been up dated, but there is still more work in this direction. We are preparing to launch a new display in Raymond May’s room, and this will have an official opening day. Details of this will appear on the newsletter, which is regularly delivered bi-monthly by our reliable foot persons. We are indebted to David Owen and his family for their extremely generous donation to further enhance the Centre. We do hope the people of Bourne and newcomers, who read this report, can find it in their hearts to a look inside the building at comment on our display, further appreciate our aims, and even join the society. It is free and we are very social, and a good place to explain to your visitors about this neck of the woods. A full social programme available.

This concludes the report.