



BOURNE CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

October 2011

Registered Charity No 512420



Welcome to New Members

Major's Richard and Heather Durrant

Sat 29th October

Uk's Biggest Volunteering Day
Would you like to volunteer for a
Sat/ Sun 2pm/ 4pm at the mill.

Next Meeting

Peter Page
Brief History of the Pipe Organ
Wed 12th October

A number of groups are visiting the heritage centre.

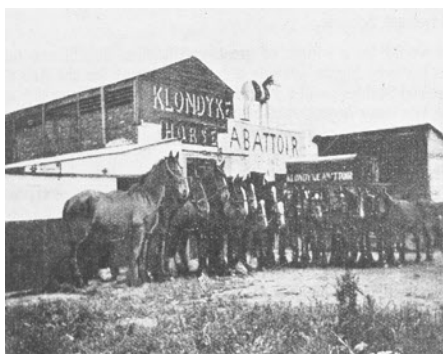
They are bringing added value to both the mill and the town. The groups after visiting the mill go into the town, restaurants and pubs. This months groups were the U3A from Huntingdon, MG motor group and the Bourne Trefoil Guild who enjoyed a talk on the work and setting up of Bourne in Bloom.

Wood Grange care home asked if the society could help with pictures of old Bourne and Raymond Mays. Their plan is to enlarge the pictures and paste onto the walls. So that residents can take a walk down memory lane. This is to stimulate the people in there to have discussion groups, to bring back memories.

Bourne in Bloom

Bourne secured a Silver Gilt in the East Midlands small towns group.

The wellhead gardens received a special mention for the work carried out by the Bourne United Charities.



Heritage Open Days

A Victorian theme was used for the open days this year. We had good attendance through out the four days. The Worth Gallery is still a big attraction.



September Meeting
Talk by Eddie Lunn
Bourne Bricks!

A well attended meeting to listen to Eddie Lunn. The talk took a twist; it was at the old brick pits in Bourne. The brick pits went into liquidation in 1907. Klondyke Animal Sanctuary and Slaughter House took over in 1928.

The talk then moved to Eastgate Slaughter House, Eddie Lunn worked in both of these places. The Bourne brick (1897/circa) that he brought with him came from the foundations of the Eastgate Slaughter House; he donated it to the Society.

Planning

Sir, Philip Collins (Opinion, Sept 2) repeats the mantra that only 10 per cent of this country is developed. For hundreds of thousands of years, mankind's impact on our landscape was minimal.

Up to the 19th century, less than 1 per cent of our landscape had been destroyed by development, yet in those few generations between then and now, a tiny fraction of the overall span, that figure has grown to 10 per cent. "Development" cannot go on at that rate without dire consequences. If we called it "destruction", both of landscape and wildlife, instead of "Development" we might see it in a different light. We must decide whether we are serious about environmental blight and energy wastage or not. The only way to tackle those problems would be to start reducing the human footprint year by year as a matter of urgency. Yet here we are in a fantasy world in which even the luminaries of supposed environmentalists groups, such as the National Trust and the Campaign to Protect Rural England, say they are not opposed to yet more "development" provided that it is "sustainable", as though there is any such thing. As in so much of life today, logic is the victim of self-deception and, of course, politics. This was written by one of our members to a National Newspaper.

Another exhibit for the Heritage Centre

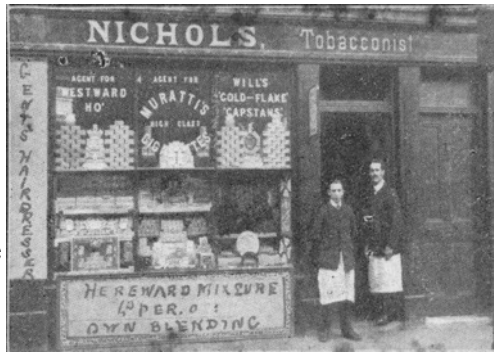
by REX NEEDLE

An old enamelled matchbox holder is to join the permanent display at the Heritage Centre. It is one of the many artefacts handed in by members of the public which has become a valuable source of material for the museum devoted to Bourne and its past history.

The holder is over 100 years old and was either sold or given away as a gift by J J W Nicholls, tobacconist and hairdresser, of No 6 South Street, most probably in 1902 to celebrate the career of the distinguished soldier Lord Kitchener and his recent victory in the Boer War, an event that sparked off wild celebrations in Bourne which turned into a riot when 29 people were arrested.

A coloured picture of him in uniform with his medals and regalia is on one side and there is a black and white photograph on the other showing the hairdressing shop at the end of the three-storey corner block in South Street with the owner, John Nichols, and one of his staff standing in the doorway. The business was later taken over by A C Barnatt and is now occupied by Neal's the hairdressers.

The condition of the matchbox holder is not perfect because rust has started to appear through the enamel. Nevertheless, historic items such as this are an invaluable addition to the collection at the Heritage Centre and many more must be lying around in homes and shops around Bourne. If anyone out there comes across something that has an association with past times, then please hand it in because it will be of immense interest to future generations.



NEW BOOK FEATURES RAYMOND MAYS AND THE BRM by Rex Needle

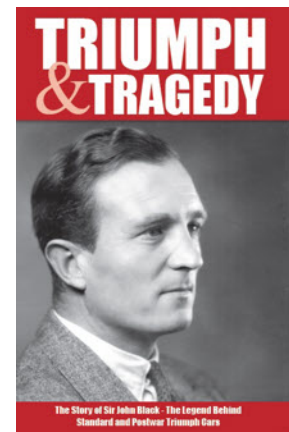
The connection between Raymond Mays, the motor racing driver and designer, and the Standard motor company, is highlighted in a new book that has just been published. Triumph and Tragedy is the story of Sir John Black who was managing director of the Standard Motor Company and post-war Triumph from 1933-54. His story has a Bourne connection because he sponsored BRM through Raymond Mays, a friend for many years, and Standard subsequently built and equipped a test house for racing cars at the workshops in Spalding Road, now used as an auction saleroom. Ken Richardson, who was chief test driver for BRM, also went on to work for Sir John

at Coventry and ended up developing the legendary TR2 sports car.

Sir John, who was twice married, died in 1965, aged 70, and this intriguing yet personal account has been written by his son, Nick Black, aged 62, who runs a window cleaning business at Stamford. The book is illustrated with many black and white photographs which he inherited and the result is a fascinating narrative which has the makings of a real life adventure, a tale that weaves through the decades, encompassing many domestic events and colourful personalities from politics, sport and industry encountered along the way.

"He was great company and good fun and there was never a dull moment", said Nick. "He was gifted in business but both of his marriages were disastrous although he never divorced my mother and she remained loyal to him. This is a one off for me and it has taken me five years to write and research but I realised that with the photos and memories that my mother had related to me, I had a great story to tell."

The book costs £15 and copies are available from Walkers Books at 19 North Street Bourne, PE10 9AE.



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.