

Barton upon Humber Civic Society

NEWSLETTER 2023



1969 - 2023
Registered Charity Number 260105
www.bartoncivicsociety.co.uk

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Vacant

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Annual General Meeting
7.30pm Friday 21 July 2023
Joseph Wright Hall
Wilderspin School Museum
Queen Street
Barton upon Humber**

AGENDA

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous AGM held on 15 July 2022 at the Joseph Wright Hall
4. Chair's Report
5. Environment Sub-Committee Report
6. Heritage Sub-Committee Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Election of Officer
9. Subscription: Change of Individual fee from £10 pa to £15
10. Any Other Business

8.00pm Humber Bank Industries

The Humber bank was once a hive of activity. Tile making still continues along the Humber bank but what you see today is a fraction of the numerous tile yards and other works that needed to be close to the Humber highway. Andrew Robinson tells all, following the Society's Annual Meeting at 7.30pm.

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 15 July 2022, at Joseph Wright Hall – Andrew Robinson

1. Present:

Nigel Land (Chairman), Andrew Robinson, Liz Bennet, Jane Darwood, Sallyann Garrard-Hughes, Ian Lawless, John French, Phil Bradley, Jean Bradley, David Walker, Tim Woollard, Andrew Flatt, Veronica Feirn, Katy Snell, Alan Taylor, Terry Shipley, Ursula Vickerton, Darren Stockdale, Janet Stockdale, Amy duBois.

Apologies:

Joe Hall, Freda Hall, Norman Hornsby, Nancy Hornsby, Ian Wolseley, John Womersley, Richard Hatfield, Chris McCall-Steggles, Neil Jacques, Rose Jackson, Val Dukes.

2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM:

Approved as a true record.

3. Chairman's Report:

In the absence of the chairman, Neil Jacques, the meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Nigel Land. The chairman's report had been published in the newsletter.

4. Environment sub-committee report:

The chairman of the sub-committee, John Womersley, was unable to be present but had submitted a report of their activities in the newsletter.

5. Heritage sub-committee:

The sub-committee chairman, Ian Wolseley, was unable to be present but had submitted a report of their activities in the newsletter.

6. Treasurer’s Report:

The treasurer, Jean Bradley, advised that the annual accounts had been published in the newsletter. The Society’s financial situation continues to be strong, but the society has recently agreed to spend approximately £ 2500 to £ 3000 on renovation of the seating area at The Beck.

7. Election of Officers:

Monty Martin had decided to stand down from the committee but Jen Murch had been proposed for election. Sallyann Garrard-Hughes who had been a co-opted member had also been proposed for election.

A proposal by John French , seconded by Amy duBois, to elect all candidates “En Bloc”, was passed unanimously.

8. Any Other Business:

A proposal by Sallyann Garrard-Hughes, seconded by Liz Bennet, to create a new post of Assistant Secretary was passed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 7.43 pm, and was then followed by a presentation on Baysgarth Park by Liz Bennet and Andrew Robinson.

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Chair’s Annual Report 2022/23

Neil Jacques [Chair, Executive Committee]

I started my New Year message full of hope with the news about the Government Grant of £20 million to include work on the Interchange. While it is great news that the car park is being extended, it is nothing like the ideas developed by the Civic Society which were initially agreed by North Lincs Council and supported by the Town Council, Community Rail Partnership and Friends of the Barton Line.

I can’t help feeling that this is a missed opportunity for Barton, to do something really special for the town with a major piece of work to improve the public transport infrastructure and make a feature of the whole site including the area now being left under brambles.

On a more positive note, the work of the Society continues apace thanks to the dedication of the Committee and Sub Committee members. We have supported the bid by The Ropewalk to the Community Ownership fund to take on responsibility for Baysgarth House Museum from North Lincolnshire Council who are unable to refurbish and reopen the building at present. Hopefully this will lead to more grant bids for the money to undertake all the repair work needed and re-open the Museum on extended opening hours.

The work of the two sub committees is covered elsewhere, but I should like to record my thanks to John Womersley who chaired the Environment Sub Committee until April this year and Ian Wolseley chair of the Heritage Sub Committee for all their work for the Society over this and previous years.

Two more points looking to the future. We really could do with more people to assist with the work of the Society by joining the Exec and sub committees. It really is rewarding helping the Society fulfil its vision of safeguarding the past and influencing the future. It needn’t be too time consuming as committee members are encouraged to do as much as they feel comfortable with. So please do consider joining us.

Secondly, we are proposing an increase in annual subscriptions from £10 to £15. It’s been a long time since subs were increased and I am sure nobody needs reminding about increasing costs, which affect the Society as well, so I do hope you will be able to support this at the AGM.

If you have any questions or comments about our work, please do come along to the AGM and air your views.

Environment Sub-Committee Report

Andrew Robinson [Chair, Environment Sub-Committee]

At the time of writing the sub-committee is without a chairman following the recent resignation of John Womersley after several years in the chair. John has been a successful leader of the group and we would like to thank him for all his efforts, hoping that he will return at some time in the future. Jane Darwood has also recently stood down leaving just John French, Nigel Land, Ian Lawless and Andrew Robinson on the committee.

Looking back from last year's report, it is pleasing to note that progress has been made on several fronts:

After several months of campaigning, mainly by Nigel Land, the 20 mph. speed limit proposed for Fleetgate has now been implemented by North Lincolnshire Council throughout most of the inner streets of Barton. It is hoped this will have a calming effect on traffic as well as reducing its effects on historic buildings and also increasing the general quality of life around the town centre. The sub-committee has also considered the possible benefits of a one-way system around the town but has not yet reached a consensus on this matter.

Work has recently started on the Transport Interchange at the corner of Fleetgate and Butts Road, funded by a "levelling-up" grant from central government. Whilst pleased to finally see some progress on this site, the sub-committee is disappointed at the lack of communication from North Lincolnshire Council. The sub-committee took the initiative over the site, commissioning a Landscape Architect a few years ago to prepare proposals for its improvement, and subsequently staging a consultation event to gauge local opinion on the plans. We were also involved in initial meetings to discuss the progress of these plans, but for the last two years we have been kept in the dark by the Council over the future of the site, to such an extent that we are even now completely unaware of the final design for the project.

Further to the sub-committee's initial approaches on the Humber Bridge Viewing Area, this has now been brought under the umbrella of the Friends of Barton Parks, leading to significant environmental improvements, including re-surfacing of much of the car park area which had been one of the main concerns. It is hoped that the park will achieve Green Flag status at some point in the future.

For some years the sub-committee has been concerned with the state of derelict or dilapidated buildings in the town, passing requests for action to North Lincolnshire Council, which now has a committee to discuss these properties, although little progress has been made over the past twelve months. The main buildings of concern to the sub-committee are 74 Butts Road, which has been empty for approximately 40 years, and the Oddfellows Hall, which has a complicated ownership structure and is therefore difficult to progress. Such dilapidated buildings do not help the appearance of the town and present a negative image to visitors.

The sub-committee has been responsible for The Beck for the past few years, but responsibility for the water and grassed area was then handed over to North Lincolnshire Council. The seating area was refurbished during 2022, using residual funds from the original Beck project, and has now been taken on by Barton Town Council for future maintenance. Work was also carried out to prevent water leaking away into the outfall chamber, but this has had only a limited benefit. The springs started flowing earlier this winter, and at the time of writing a reasonable level of water was still held in the area. The original aim of maintaining some water in the Beck all year round has proved difficult to achieve, but it is felt that even when the water drains away in the summer months, the appearance is now much improved.

Heritage Sub-Committee Report

Ian Wolseley [Chair, Heritage Sub-Committee]

The year's activities began with a successful trip to Sledmere House and its magnificent walled garden made all the more glorious in the summer sunshine. The Wagoners' Museum is also at Sledmere, telling the story of the Wagoners' Special Reserve's veterinary hospital and the use of horses in the First World War.

The autumn programme included a talk by Liz Bennet and Andrew Robinson who outlined the efforts of the local community, in partnership with North Lincolnshire Council and Barton Town Council, to care for Baysgarth Park which now has a Green Flag Award recognising it as one of the UK's very best green spaces. Cecile Oxaal talked about Dr. Mary Murdoch who was the first female doctor in Hull where she galvanised the suffrage campaign in the City and East Yorkshire. The last talk of the year, given by Peter Claxton, was about Victorian and Edwardian efforts to improve public health & housing in Hull.

The Society is grateful to everyone who helps me make the lecture evenings happen: Janet and Darren Stockdale for the raffle; Liz Bennet "on the door" recruiting new members; Lorraine Stanley and Rose Jackson who help with refreshments; and Richard Clake for acting as MC. We are also grateful to everyone at Wilderspin for setting up the Joseph Wright Hall for the talks.

Our 2023 programme is now well underway. The talk themes this year have chosen to appeal to newcomers to the town, and hopefully increase Society membership. Old favourites have been revisited and will be equally appealing to existing members. Membership has increased with each monthly talk. Not everyone finds Friday evenings easy on dark, cold, wet autumn evenings so we have trialled a couple of afternoon lectures, and they have been a great success - attracting good audiences, and new people - including many from out of town. It seems the strategy could be working as I understand membership is at its greatest for five years!

The Heritage Open Days programme in September shifted the focus to the great outdoor spaces in Barton including walks, talks and tours under the branding umbrella Heritage Without Walls. As usual, we linked up with the main Heritage Lincolnshire programme.

We have begun recruiting and training a team of new tour guides to deliver guided walks, beginning with the Victorian Barton Walk. While Covid restrictions still applied we did our first virtual tour via Zoom to members of the Lincolnshire Heritage & Archaeology Society who later visited the town in person. I am most grateful to John French for his assistance with this work. If you would like to join the team of tour guides to escort visiting groups to the town, please let us know or come along to one of our Heritage Open Days walks in September to see what is involved.

Major developments with the Society's Archive have included the acquisition of a significant amount of material from the collections of Dr. Ball, Brian Peeps and Geoff Bryant. John Ball's personal notes relating to Barton's early history were collated and published by Anthony Berridge and Paul Mann. We now have some dedicated storage space in the Joseph Wright Hall where preparatory work can be done on the archive in readiness for a move to a permanent home in the future.

With so much else going on we are behind with adding more oral history interviews to the Memory Bank. If this is something you think you could help with (conducting interviews and / or transcribing them) please do get in touch.

Publicity is very much a team effort, but I am especially grateful to Liz Bennet for help with our traditional and digital marketing. Traditional methods such as the Members' Card and posters are still

valuable, signposting people to online information available on our website. Our thanks go to Richard Hatfield for poster design and to Liz for their distribution. A new departure this year has been the production of a Civic Society promotion leaflet publicising the work of the Society and benefits of membership. It includes a listing of all the talks too. A lot of work goes into promoting the Society's activities online, on social media and on our website again – thanks to Liz Bennet, Richard Hatfield, Jane Tuplin and the Barton Tourism Partnership. We are also cross-promoting our programme with Hull Civic Society.

The final bit of the Heritage remit is the Civic Society merchandise for which we are, once again, grateful to Liz Bennet. The public talks and monthly Barton markets are our main outlets along with the town's museums.



John French, pictured in March at the Wilderspin School Museum, sharing reminiscences about the Society's involvement with the Church School restoration, having previously visited the Beck with the group on one of our guided walks

The remaining talks for 2023 are:

Friday 8 September, 7.30pm

Barton Heritage Open Days - Made in Barton

Hall's ropes and Hopper cycles were made in Barton, sold around the world and were household names. The former rope factory building is now The Ropewalk which runs alongside the promenade from the Tesco car park to the river, and the former Hopper HQ office building is on the corner of Holydyke and Brigg Road. Liz Bennet and Nigel Land explain the buildings, other visible links in the town that have survived and the story of both industries.

Friday 20 October, 7.30pm

Church & Chapel

One of the best-known Anglo-Saxon buildings is here in Barton! St. Peter's Church, near the Beck, is an archaeological and architectural treasure trove. Its famous tower is Anglo-Saxon, and it was one of two parish churches in the town, which is unusual. The building is now a fascinating tourist attraction cared for by English Heritage and, as Kevin Booth explains, is home to over 2,800 burials dating from Anglo-Saxon to Victorian times. The second building we'll look at this evening is the imposing Trinity Methodist Church on Holydyke. John Pullen will be our virtual tour guide to this enormous church and will share its history and that of the other two earlier Wesleyan Methodist chapels in Barton.

Friday 17 November, 2pm*

Safeguarding the Past – Shaping the Future

For over fifty years the Civic Society has encouraged a sense of civic pride and public interest in the good appearance of our town, its buildings and open spaces. This panel discussion brings together people with first-hand experience of the planning regulations and homeowners who live in the conservation area or who are custodians of listed buildings to improve awareness of the planning requirements and to discuss the challenges of conservation.

*Please note this is an afternoon meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Jean Bradley (Honorary Treasurer)

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

	2021/22	2022/23		2021/22	2022/23
Receipts	£	£	Payments	£	£
Subscriptions	1545.00	1510.00	Secretarial	90.66	65.49
Investments	870.87	1789.04	Subscriptions	25.00	25.00
Merchandise sales	147.48	109.16	Insurance	247.77	495.54
Raffles	80.00	189.50	Printing Newsletter	530.00	637.05
Refreshments	55.95	95.36	Room Hire	460.00	702.50
Donations	39.00	585.00	Ordnance Survey Renewal	65.70	65.70
Non-members entries	80.00	238.00	Website		43.16
Unpresented cheques	150.00	358.56	Sledmere trip		828.00
Sledmere Trip		780.00	Brian Peeps Archive Papers	850.00	650.00
Bus Res A/c Transfer		2000.00	Archive Storage	250.00	100.00
			Printing leaflets etc.	386.60	109.50
			Beck Expenses	336.80	2130.00
			Remembrance Day Wreath	21.98	23.98
			Donation: Wilderspin Museum	1000.00	
			Speakers' fees	145.00	373.90
			Merchandise	35.00	
			Plaques		994.20
			Leaving Gift		48.98
			Sundries		28.56
					7321.56
			Excess of receipts over payments		333.06
		<u>7654.62</u>			<u>7654.62</u>

Reserves as at 1st April 2023

Current A/c	5000.33	
Business Reserve A/c	7724.77	(as at 1 st April 2023)
Investment Capital	33014.00	
	<u>45739.10</u>	

Our overall financial position remains stable considering the difficult times we are all going through. The increases in room hire and speakers fees resulted in having to increase the entrance fee to non-members to our monthly public meetings. We will also be increasing our membership fee to £15 at the Annual General Meeting because of escalating printing costs, etc. I feel this still represents good value especially if members enjoy the monthly meetings which will remain free.

Our archive storage will be moved to a designated room in the Wilderspin School. Whilst this will increase the cost of archive storage, it will give the opportunity and space for any interested members of the public to look at the many interesting items the Civic Society has collected over the years.

Good Marks [2022 / 2023]

The Good Marks scheme seeks to recognise improvements to the street scene and general care of the built environment, improvements to the natural environment and personal achievement. The award of Good Marks is confined to improvements within the Barton parish.

Nominations are considered at each Executive Committee meeting, and a certificate is awarded to any successful projects. At the end of each year the Executive Committee consider all the certificated projects and an Annual Award is presented to the overall winner at the Society's Annual General Meeting held in July.

A Green Good Mark was introduced in recognition of environmental improvements and for other deserving schemes which may help the environment, reduce waste etc.

Friends of Barton Parks and North Lincolnshire Council

'the Green Gym - a well-designed and extremely popular useful asset for the town'

Nigel and Julie Latham

'railings on Fleetgate House - a valuable contribution to the street scene'

North Lincolnshire Council

'Green Mark for new litter bins throughout the town for enabling the public to separate waste'

Ian and Julie Wilson

'the comprehensive restoration of 45 Waterside Road - a prominent building'

139 Waterside Road

'ice cream parlour and courtyard at 139 Waterside Road which has created a useful tourist attraction'

Dennis and Penny Thornton

'Green Mark for the front garden at 62 Queens Avenue'

Barton Town Council

'Saturday market, which is proving popular with both stall holders and customers'

Pepperells Solicitors

'refurbishment of office at 1, King Street'



Neil Jacques presents a Good Mark award to Nigel and Julie Latham (left) and Nigel Land presents an award to Nicola Carroll and her staff at Pepperells Solicitors. (right)

Articles

The Turbulent History of Barton Town Football Club

Darren Stockdale

Barton Town is the most prominent football club of the town and has been for most of the last 140+ years of its existence. They currently play in the Northern Counties Eastern League Premier Division, the highest the club has played at. This league is step 5 of the non-league system (which in a nutshell means five more promotions to get to league football). However, it has certainly had an interesting past, especially in the beginning, and has taken a few twists and turns along the way to get where it is today.

The Beginning Years

A newspaper report from December 1880 states that a football club was formed (Barton Town), with its opening match being played on the 18th December 1880 at 2:30pm on the cricket ground (Marsh Lane). This meeting, and many more over the years, was held at the White Swan, hence the nickname of the club "the Swans". For most of its early years Barton played in leagues that contained local teams, including teams from Hull. Indeed, the first game Barton played on its home ground (still the cricket pitch) was against Dairycoates from Hull. This game ended 1-0 to Barton with a goal from Spink. The team continued playing other local clubs until November 1888 when a report in the Eastern Morning News shows the demise of the first incarnation of Barton Town.

This report states that a meeting was held at the White Swan with the purpose of forming a new football club as the old Barton Town club had been broken up. The new club was to be named Barton Rovers Football Club, and once again they obtained the cricket club as a ground. However, the name Barton Rovers wasn't to last too long as they changed their name to Barton Town in December 1888. By 1895, if not earlier, Barton Town were playing in the Hull and District Football League, again showing the link to teams from Hull and the surrounding area. The name Barton Rovers didn't end in 1888 though, as a new club with this name was formed in 1893. This led to the amalgamation of the two clubs, Town and Rovers, in May 1899 with the resulting club being called Barton Rovers. Again, this didn't last long as both teams disappeared from the footballing scene shortly after, leaving Barton St. Chads as the main football team playing in the Hull and District League. Barton St. Chads seem to have been formed around August 1900, and also played in the Hull and District League, sitting top of the third league in October 1900.

The Early 1900s to the First World War

In 1904 another new club was formed, this time called Barton Old Boys. They had a successful first season so in July 1905 applied to join the Hull and District League, but they were turned



Barton Town A.F.C team for the 1920/21 season

down. At the same time Barton St. Chads were struggling, and by the end of August had played their last game. So, not wanting to miss an opportunity, in late July 1905 Barton Old Boys changed their name to Barton Town, their team including some of the old players from Barton St. Chads. They initially played in the Barton and District Football League before moving over to play in the Gainsborough and District League Northern Division. Once again, they used the cricket field as a ground, and paid 21 shillings a season to use the pavilion. Barton Town was again to play in the Barton and District League in 1910 but were suspended due to unpaid sums to the league. Once again Barton Town senior team ceased playing, however there was still a junior team under this name. Barton still had local football to watch though, as Barton Athletic (formed around 1906) and Barton United (formed around 1907) were both playing in the Barton League. However, the First World War put an end to football for a time.

More Stability and Another War

Once the war ended many football teams started up again and Barton Town was no different. In 1919 they joined the Barton and District League, and then after a few seasons joined the East Riding County League. Football was very popular, with one game in November 1921 attracting 500 spectators to the Marsh Lane ground. That game was Barton Town v Holderness Athletic, which ended 2-1 to Barton. By the mid-1920s Barton Town were playing in the North Lindsey League, and a half-time report from a game against Scunthorpe in 1925 stated that their colours were blue and white. By the 1927/28 season Barton Town had moved to their own Marsh Lane ground.

They continued in the league until 1939 when the outbreak of war hit football again. Once again, after the war, many football teams started up again, and in June 1946 Barton Town were admitted to the Scunthorpe & District League 1. They played in the league for three seasons before joining the Lincolnshire League the year after it was formed. They played in this league for many years, through to the 1963/64 season, finishing bottom in 1956/57 and being crowned champions in 1960/61. Throughout this time, they played in white. In 1964/65

Barton Town joined the Yorkshire League division 2, recreating links to the north of the estuary they enjoyed so many times in their early years. They finished second in their first season and were promoted to the Yorkshire League division 1. They stayed in this league for another three seasons before joining the Midlands League, changing their colours to red at the same time. Their first season saw them finish 17th, and this was repeated in their second season, however that season they played in blue. The next season, 1970/71, saw Barton Town back in the Yorkshire League division 1, again playing in blue but suffering relegation to the second division. The following season they reverted to their white colours and ended up champions, being promoted to division 1 again. They stayed in division 1 for a couple more seasons before relegation struck them once more in the 1973/74 season. Barton Town then spent another six seasons in the Yorkshire League division 2 before being crowned champions again in the 1979/80 season (again playing in white). Barton Town spent one more season in the Yorkshire League division 1 before moving over to the Lincolnshire League division 1 for the 1981/82 season, when they were again crowned champions. They spent three more seasons in the Lincolnshire League Premier Division before financial worries started to hit. This led to them taking the place of the reserve team in the Scunthorpe and District League 4 for the 1985/86 season, and the Scunthorpe and District League 3 for the 1986/87 season. They then managed another four seasons in the Lincolnshire League before the financial situation got too much and from the 1991/92 season could not field a team.

During the same period Barton Old Boys had reformed and enjoyed their own turbulent time. In the 1929/30 season they were playing in the Scunthorpe and District League 2 and were crowned champions that season. The next season they came third in the Scunthorpe and District League 1, and the season after they won this league. They then resigned from the league in October 1932. They reappeared for a couple of seasons between 1952 and 1954, but then came back with a bang in the 1959/60 season. They then spent many seasons in this league, most of them in League 1, being crowned champions seven times and winning numerous

cups. Their record in the Scunthorpe and District League 1 whilst Barton Town was not playing was a third-place finish in the 1991/92 season, followed by a third-place finish in the 1992/93 season and Rod Mill Cup winners. The 1993/94 season saw them finish second in the league and win the Challenge Cup, and the 1994/95 season saw them crowned champions, win the Challenge Cup, the Hospital Cup and the Rod Mill Cup.

The Modern Era

I guess what was to come next was no surprise. For the start of the 1995/96 season, it was agreed to merge the facilities of Barton Town and the team of Barton Old Boys to create a new club called Barton Town Old Boys, ninety years after the last time the Barton Old Boys team became Barton Town. This new team started life in the Lincolnshire League (their colour once again blue) before playing one season in the newly formed Humber Premier League. Then it was on to the Central Midlands League and a period of ground improvements to enable the club to get promoted to the Northern

Counties League. In the 2005/06 season Barton were crowned champions of the Central Midlands League but would have to wait until the next season to get promoted (once the ground improvements met the standards needed). So, for the 2007/08 season Barton Town Old Boys started a new chapter, playing in the Northern Counties East Division One league, the highest the club had ever played at. Four seasons later a runners-up spot in the league saw promotion to the Northern Counties East Premier Division, once again the highest the club has ever played at. Barton has enjoyed football at this level ever since, but the story wouldn't be complete without the final piece of the jigsaw. This came in the 2017/18 season when the name of the club was once more changed to Barton Town, bringing full circle the name which started out in 1880.

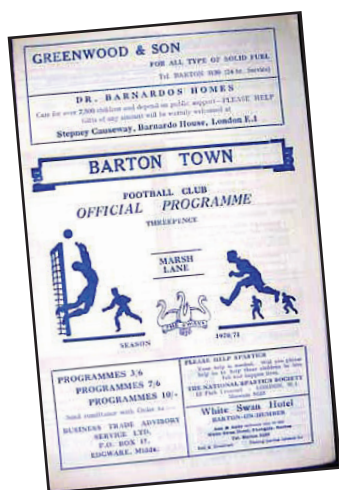
Sources:

Various trade directories

Various Barton Almanacs

Hull Packet and East Riding Times (various issues)

The British Newspaper Archive



A programme from the 1970/71 Yorkshire League season.



Two programmes from the 1975/76 Yorkshire League season.

1920s Barton upon Humber

Charles Watkinson (1920 - 2007)

I sometimes wonder if some of the residents of the terrace type houses in Barton ever look at the small brick buildings at the end of their gardens and know what purpose they served in years past. I refer to the old 'pigsty', probably long since put to other uses.

When I was a boy, in the 1920s-early 1930s, my maternal Grandparents kept a pig in their Marsh Lane sty. It was fed on scraps from our own and neighbours' tables: potatoes, any surplus vegetables, anything at all, it all went into the 'swill tub'. This was mixed with good locally produced barley meal and fed to the pig. When potatoes were being lifted, the small unsaleable ones would be acquired, taken home and boiled in buckets, in sheds or in the house. These would be put in the barley meal mixture to aid in the fattening process. I don't know what the pigs thought about them, but we children always took some, skinned them while hot and ate them with just a little salt, and very good they were too. Occasionally a lump of coal was thrown into the sty! I do not think this was in any way unusual; I think it is in accounts of sailing men of the Baltic and certainly the well-known author Eric Newby, in his account of 'The Last Grain Race', relates how pigs kept for food upset the coal buckets just to get at this 'delicacy'.

Our pig had been bought when small and as it grew, it was, of course, the subject of much speculation by the local pundits as to probable size etc. come the backend of the year. Having reached the desired weight, about 30+ stone, Grandad would arrange the purchase of blocks of salt and some saltpetre from J C Lee in George St. The next-door neighbour would be put on notice to be ready to light their copper and keep it boiling when a date was decided upon, usually a Saturday. Grandma and daughters would unearth dishes, porkpie tins, sausage machine and other items; these would be examined and prepared for use. The large scalding tub (doubling as the salting down tub) and the cratch would be spoken for and last, but certainly not least, one of the Characters of the town, a fellow employee of Grandfather's at the

Farmers Company, one George Cressey, would be told that as soon as the very cold weather set in and looked like holding, then he would be needed to kill and dress the pig. A 'cratch' is not, as defined in some dictionaries, a rack for holding animal fodder. This 'cratch' was a solidly made platform. The side members were longer than the actual flat bed and thus provided handles at both ends. It was large enough to hold the dead pig for scraping after scalding in the tub and for subsequent dressing into hams, flitches etc.

A bit about Mr Cressey; there were some Marsh Lane residents who would have no other person to kill their pigs. But Grandad had to arrange it and be present. Mr Cressey was a strong, hard-working man who lodged on Butts Road, liked a glass of beer and was an expert when it came to pig killing. Grandfather and he seemed to get on famously. So famously that on one occasion, Grandfather had gone to bring him to Marsh Lane to get on with the pig killing, but having both decided to call in at the White Swan, there was a delay. Grandmother was not best pleased and being well aware of the probable cause, she sent my brother off with strict instructions. He was not to leave the Swan without them! She knew that Mrs Nurse, the Licensee, would not tolerate a young person in the bar and both the errands would be sent packing. They were. When the weather was very cold and holding, a date would be set and all would be action from the appointed Saturday morning. Grandma, my mother and aunts were ready to (I quote) 'get the pig out o' road'. The tub was positioned in the backyard, the cratch readied nearby and the unfortunate animal led from the sty, a band around its two big tusches (teeth) providing the guiding rein and with some pushing and encouraging words the pig was led into the backyard. Once at the cratch the band was wound around a handle and the pig pulled on to its side on the cratch and held down. All the menfolk were on hand for this. Very quickly a lengthwise incision would be made along the throat and a deep thrust severed arteries without damage to the shoulders. The pig died very quickly.

As this happened the contents of the already boiling washhouse coppers would be put in the tub and the dead animal lowered carefully into the boiling water. A chain already laid across the tub would be pulled from side to side and as the pig was turned from side to back to other side the hair would be removed by the vigorous use of the chain being pulled from side to side and back and forth along the length of the tub. Scrapers came into action, more water from the coppers used to soften any stubborn hair and eventually the pig was lifted on to the cratch and the final scrape with sharp knives resulted in a cleansed carcass. The toenails were removed, the head taken off and the cratch and carcass shifted bodily into the washhouse. A block and tackle had been attached to the rafters, none of your stapled together trusses here, the rafters were serious woodwork and would have held a battleship. A cambrel was inserted into the back leg hamstrings, the legs spread wide on it, the block attached centrally and the carcass hove up. The carcass was opened down the centre line, taking care not to damage the intestines; this allowed the carcass to be eviscerated. Leaf fats were removed onto large dishes ready to make the very best lard, the heart, lungs and liver came out, as did the small intestine (this, after careful cleansing, made the sausage skins). The large intestines were usually taken away by someone to be treated and made into chitterlings. When all was cleaned up the washhouse door was secured and the carcass left to cool.

Next morning Mr Cressey would appear, complete with apron, belt, pouch of knives and steel and other tools of his trade. He was often seen walking about the area thus garbed, particularly if he had killed two or three during the same afternoon. He would have some blood on his apron, would have a couple of pints in the Blue Bell and tell tall tales of the weight of the animals dealt with that day. This is why some folk were just a little nervous on first sight. Goodness knows what the modern generations would say. There would be more 999 calls than the system could stand.

The scrubbed cratch would be readied and the dismembering begin. The spare ribs would come out, not the bitty things one sees nowadays but the whole section of ribs, both right and left

sides, would be excised still with succulent meat attached. Those who have never tasted a dish of spare rib with gravy and trimmings do not know what they are missing.

The two long fillets of tender juicy pork would come out ready for the pork pies and sausage for the house. Next the carcass would be cut down on each side of the backbone. Grandfather and the butcher made sure there was a good thickness and depth of meat behind the bone. The spine with the meat was divided into joints: 'chines'. The very biggest and best from the neck area between the shoulders was the one saved for special occasions; some called it the 'Christmas Chine' which indicates the purpose to which it was put at times. The hams were carefully removed, the flitches and shoulders readied, these had to stand critical approval as to shape from Mr Cressey and Grandfather. The pig's feet had been removed, trimmings from the jointing taken in to be used in making up 'frys', sausage, etc. and any fat would be rendered. The hocks were removed from the back legs and from the shoulders; these were to be salted along with the hams, flitches and shoulders. The head was split and provided pig chaps for salting. The ears and all the meat behind the split portions to be salted as 'chaps', was taken, together with much else, to make brawn. I think Grandma always put a piece of beef into the brawn mixture. The feet were enjoyed by Grandfather and Aunt Florrie.

Then came a period of organised bedlam. All the work was done in the small kitchen which had a small side oven. These ranges had a small, lidded container on the opposite side of the fire to the oven. This was called the 'boiler' and had a 'boiler can' handy to take hottish water out. It would be a bit sooty but useful. It must be realised that there was no mains water, the only supply came from a pump shared by the neighbours. There was no electricity, light was provided by a gas mantle fitting in the kitchen and in the front room (used only on high days such as Christmas or formal occasions such as funerals, weddings and the like).

Leaf fat was cut into cubes and rendered to make best lard, plates came out and pigs fry prepared to take to neighbours – pieces of liver, meat and some veil: the gauze-like thin sheets

of fat taken from the inside of the pig. These were sent off to the various recipients and the messenger was thanked, the bloody plate was salted and some small amount, by way of a tip, given to the lucky lad. The serious work began then, the small intestine was cleansed in salty water, scraped by using the blunt back of a table knife to force clean water along the length of it; this process continued until the long length was clean. The back of the knife was used to minimise the risk of making holes in the skin. Even so, when the ropps were judged to be clean, someone would blow down them to find any holes. Imagine the problem that sausage meat pouring from a hole in the skins on the machine spout would cause. The skins were kept in briny water and covered until required. The sausage machine was of the tabletop variety. It had different cutters and attachments, but it was manually operated and everyone pitched in.

There was method; had to be with only one fire and one oven and the bustle of the younger ladies making sausage meat, rendering fat down, getting pork pie meat prepared; so much and I cannot remember it all. The large joints were salted into the big tub which had been brought into the small back-kitchen. Saltpetre was used in the curing by putting some into the cavity in the large ham from which the hip had hinged. This was examined frequently to make sure the preserving process was a success. All the joints had been well rubbed with salt and placed in salt in the tub. In due course, when Grandfather was satisfied that the salting was satisfactory, the hams, shoulders and flitches were placed in white pillow covers and hung on hooks in the ceiling or on the walls of the kitchen. A stick was placed behind them to prevent grease staining the wallpaper. This was not always successful. All this was over a space of time, but in the days following the pig being killed, brawn, sausages, mincemeat and pork pies had been made and some further gifts of sausage etc. made as a 'thank you' for the use of a copper and all the edible scraps readily given over the year.

During the next long months the pig meat would be taken into use, fat bacon for frying, a piece of shoulder for boiling and use in main meals or for pack-ups. The hocks would be boiled in a large pan on the fire. When ready, the water, which was salty, was drained off and the meat

boiled again, this time with additions: a rabbit or chicken from the small livestock kept in garden sheds, split peas and other vegetables and the result was a very substantial broth and how good it was!

I mentioned the spare ribs – sometimes a piece of the spare rib with plenty of meat on it would be roasted and a piece served with vegetables and gravy. I am hard put to describe how these tasted, how the sausage and pork pies had the best of filling, but modern society has no knowledge of such delights. One other item that would have the present-day health faddists clutching their calorie counters was 'scraps'. When all the fat had been rendered again and again until there was nothing more to be had, then the residue – the 'scraps' – was eaten with relish. Some home-made bread with warm scraps and some salt was a real treat. As I write this I can almost hear Grandfather say: "There's no nature in the stuff you buy today." There isn't, locally bred and fed cattle had some nature in the meat, beef had some fat on it.

I must mention Barton Fair. Not the collection of amusements that pass by that name today, but once upon a time a day of some note in the town. Grandmother's brother, a clerk in a solicitors office, came into his own on that day. He was Mr William (Tinky) Stow and was the organiser and Lord High Everything on this day, which is well recorded as Barton Horse Show. There was everything that one associates with a Horse Show, with small livestock: birds, rabbits etc. shown in the Drill Hall. There were amusements and eventually the large Steam Horses, Chairplanes etc. and stalls filled the Market Place, the Paddock and I am told some found venues near the Railway Station and at the Point (the very end of Waterside Road).

Prior to this main Fair Day, Grandfather would have taken a ham down from the kitchen wall and with a knife that always reminded me of a machete, a long wide-bladed very sharp weapon, he would take the whole of the lower rounded end off the ham and Grandmother would have it boiled in the scoured copper. All the family would then attend at the groaning table at teatime and full justice would be done to the ham and much else. A Happy Day, almost a second Christmas.



A family photo taken on Marsh Lane with the water pump clearly visible in the left foreground – this was shared by all the neighbours in the absence of mains water

This article was chosen from the Civic Society Archive by Nigel Land.

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Talks from the 2022 - 2023 Public Lecture Programme

Doctor Mary Murdoch - Hull's First Female Doctor

Notes by Katy Snell of a talk by Cecile Oxaal on Friday 9 September 2022



To the people of Hull and surrounding areas, Dr Mary Murdock was a doctor, a leader, a friend and for some, an adversary. Though born in Scotland and educated in London and Switzerland, thousands of people in Hull gathered to pay their respects when she died in 1916, aged 52.

In 1893, women had few options in terms of careers, most who did work were forced to leave upon marriage. The desire to keep female doctors as a novelty was one of the reasons Mary arrived in Hull because the Victoria Hospital for Sick Children was unique in welcoming women. Mary became Hull's first female doctor, practicing from a surgery on Spring Bank,

though she had a practice in Grimsby and then on Beverley Road. She had two passions that filled her days and nights, the welfare of children and the rights of women.

Mary lifted up female peers, offering the assistant post in her practice to Dr Louisa Martindale. She started education and training projects to encourage women into the workplace. She created the first creche for children to enable women to work in factories. She pressed for better working conditions and tirelessly called for the council to provide decent housing for the poor, partly after spending many hours in other people's homes and witnessing the poverty they endured.

Mary wanted to see women in power and elected to local councils, so she founded a school for mothers for this purpose. She was a fervent suffragette, in her own words, "I can't keep out of it, God planted the seed in me when I was born, and I have watered it freely. Both my voice and my purse are at the service of the movement." Together with Louisa, Mary started a Woman's Suffrage Society using her house to hold meetings. She welcomed Emmeline Pankhurst when she visited Hull during a by-election in 1907 and presented a petition to the House of Commons from the women of Hull and neighbouring towns. Millicent Fawcett recalled Mary had an 'intense vitality'.

She spent time on Hull docks calling on men to see women differently, requesting fathers try holding their children for two hours on a Sunday, asking them to let her know the following week how they got on. Mary's call for men to cook was so controversial, it made the pages of the New York Times. She was the first woman to own and drive a car in Hull and was known for regularly 'doing a flacker' (speeding), accompanied through the city by her two dogs.

Public housing in Hull

Notes by Ian Wolseley of a talk by Peter Claxton on Friday 18 November 2022

This was a fascinating account of the relationships between central and local government, the ratepayers, and the unenfranchised. Peter described the pressures brought about by the migration of people from the countryside to the city.

Back-to-back and courtyard housing was built, hidden away largely from the main streets and in most cases concealed behind shops. They maximised the use of space at minimal cost and were described as 'unrestrained capitalist growth'.

Industrialisation, the growth of the docks and rapid population growth increased the pressure. The population of the old town increased from just over 22,000 in 1801 to 90,000 in 1901. Living conditions were dreadful. There was poor water infrastructure, inadequate drainage and open sewers. The privies were 'the worst evils of the courts' with excrement in some

Her legacy to Hull is most visible in the bridge over the A63 which is named Murdock's Connection. It is less visible in the solidarity and tireless efforts she made to improve the lives of women, children and men in the pursuit of equality. Dr Mary Murdock lived the suffragettes' adage, deeds not words. A trailblazer and selfless, her life would still be viewed as extraordinary in 2023, we can only wonder what she would have to say about the position of women over a hundred years later, and whether the changes reflect the progress she fought for and viewed as inevitable. Her epitaph at the All Saints cemetery reads, "Standing on an almost limitless shore, we can see, coming slowly in, the great rolling waves which go to make the inevitable high tide of women's progress, kept back often by seemingly impossible rocks and creeks, but still coming on. And no one can keep it back."



cases seeping into the houses. The 1830s cholera epidemic spread throughout Britain. Hull then was particularly susceptible. The worst month in 1832 was July when there were 2,729 cases and 684 deaths. Diarrhoea resulted from poor drainage, dreadful living conditions and inadequate night soil removal and the spread of flies.

Proposals to improve the drainage and water supply systems were rejected by the government due to the cost. It was, the government believed, the role of local authorities to deal with improvements to health and infrastructure. Nevertheless, improvements gradually resulted from the first Public Health Act (1848), the Sanitary Act (1866), and Local Government Act (1888) giving local authorities the resources to provide adequate sanitation, clean water

Local Heroes

Notes by Andrew Robinson of talks by Nigel Land, Monty Martin and Trevor Millum on Friday 17 March 2023

The talks dipped into the history of this town through the lives of four ‘Local Heroes’. They were just four out of many such lives and so the theme will surely reoccur in future years. Three speakers covered author Ted Lewis, industrialist Fred Hopper, clock maker John Harrison and the founder of the Samaritans, Chad Varah. Such people have certainly put Barton on the map and, in the case of John Harrison, Barrow upon Humber, of course. Such stories are important for the heritage of the town, as much as the history of its buildings, past and present. Both aspects are well covered by the Society, in

facilities, health and hospital services.

The Housing and Town Planning Act (1909) brought about improvements in the quality and quantity of the housing stock. Hull was slow to demolish slums and rebuild but after the ‘Addison Act’ (1919) new council developments sprang up.

addition to keeping a watchful eye on current affairs. The talks were well received by those attending and all members are urged to come to the those scheduled for the rest of the year – you are guaranteed to learn something new!

Note: *The October talk, Vere Foster - Philanthropist and Benefactor had to be cancelled due to the speaker’s illness. It will be rescheduled as part of the autumn events programme at Wilderspin – check their website for details (wilderspainschool.org.uk)*



Retirements



John, left, with the Beck project team in 2012

We are immensely grateful to John Womersley, who has stepped down as Chair of the Environment Sub-Committee, for all his valuable contributions, coordinating work of the sub-committee and for his practical involvement in projects such as the Beck project.



Andrew Robinson and Neil Jacques present Rose with a planter and rose plant to mark her retirement from the Executive Committee

Rose Jackson has retired from the Society’s Executive Committee after more than thirty years of service. She is continuing to support the work of the Heritage Subcommittee. Rose edited the Society’s annual Newsletter over many years, sourcing articles and pulling it all together. During this time the Newsletter has progressed from stapled photocopied pages to its current format.

Guided Walks



Andrew Robinson conducting a tour of Waterside's industrial heritage

Our town walks have re-started after the Covid interruption. These have been successfully delivered to heritage and amenity groups visiting Barton, and to general public audiences too. They have become a regular feature of our Heritage Open Days programme as well. The walks have been formalised inasmuch as a script has been drafted for designated routes to help our tour guides. We have also put together a pack of historical photographs for the participants. The walks generally commence at Wilderspin where car parking is available and space to introduce the walk with a short slide show.

Training of a team new tour guides is under way. It involves a brief induction and an opportunity to observe one or two tours. If you would like to join the team and help with some guiding, please get in touch with John French or Ian Wolseley via Wilderspin (Tel. 01652 635172).

Our next training tour is Saturday 1 July – and we'd appreciate a "friendly" audience of "guinea pigs" for our new guides to practise the Victorian Walk, so please come along if you can. It starts at 10am at Wilderspin.

Then, as part of Heritage Open Days 2023, there's a general Heritage Walk on Saturday 16 September, again starting at 10am at Wilderspin. There will also be another opportunity to try the Waterside Walk – full details will be available in the Heritage Open Days programme and on our website bartoncivicsociety.co.uk

Booking for these walks is advisable, via Wilderspin (tel. 01652 635172), but it's generally fine to turn up on the day – if the mood takes you!

Visit to Beverley Wednesday 9 August

Did you know that this East Yorkshire town began as a "Beaver Clearing in the Woods", or that the wonderful Minster survived Viking havoc and a town fire? Beverley has many secrets we'll explore including "one of most beautiful parish churches of England". The visit includes coach travel, guided tours and opportunities to explore, shop and find refreshments! Book via Wilderspin School Museum by telephone (01652 635172) or email wilderspainschoolmuseum@gmail.com
Note: the date of the visit has changed from that published in the Members' Card (16 August)

Letters of Thanks

Grantham Civic Society visit to Barton, 16 July 2022

Dear Barton Civic Society,

I am writing to thank you all for giving us such a marvellous visit to your beautiful town. Somebody said Barton fights above its weight and you must be in the top rank. We were so impressed by the way you have looked after the buildings and cared for the town all these years. The morning tour was fantastic and you had worked so hard to give us copies of photos and maps. Several of our members have asked me to thank you John [French] for sharing the story of Barton with us.

We were blessed by good weather. We enjoyed meeting Mr. Mayor, Cllr Paul Vickers, as visits like this are very special when we are greeted by the Mayor. The Wilderspin Museum was wonderful and somebody gave us two books about the Ropery and peoples' recollections of working there. I shall share them round our group to read.

I did not get a chance to make a donation to the Museum on the day but will send one in the post.

Once again, many thanks for a special day. You came to Grantham in 2019 and afterwards Richard Clarke wrote me a very nice letter of thanks and invited us to Barton. The cycle is now complete but of course your members are always welcome in Grantham to have another look!

Best Wishes to you all to keep up the good work for your super town.

Kind Regards

Courtney Finn
Chairman, Grantham Civic Society

Lincoln Civic Trust visit to Barton, 14 July 2022

Dear Barton Civic Society,

Our visit to Barton went very well and thank you so much for your help in organising it.

Our visitors were quite surprised by the number of unique buildings within the town and how well they are displayed - no awkward signs over the traditional shops.

Richard Clarke's comprehensive tour merely whetted their appetites to return very soon as individuals to continue exploration.

Thank you again,

Regards

Tom Cave
Lincoln Civic Trust

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023-2024 NOMINATIONS

Nominations for members of the Barton upon Humber Civic Society Executive Committee for 2023 – 2024 are requested.

The officers of the Society shall consist of:

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Honorary Secretary

Honorary Treasurer

Distribution Secretary

The Executive Committee consists of the Officers and not more than ten other members. Candidates shall be nominated by two Members and signify their acceptance of that nomination. Nominations may be accompanied by up to fifty words, introducing the Candidate.

The closing date for nominations is one week prior to the Annual General Meeting on Friday 21 July 2023. Those unable to attend the Annual general Meeting can obtain a Postal Vote on request, to the Honorary Secretary two weeks before the Annual general Meeting.

Ballot forms will be available, if required, at the Annual general Meeting. The election of Officers shall be completed prior to the election of further Members of the Executive Committee.

Note:

A separate nomination form is provided with this Newsletter.

Discover historic

Barton upon Humber

the market town brimming with history in the shadow of the Humber Bridge



Creativity Unwrapped Saturday 9 September

This year, the Heritage Open Days theme in September is Creativity Unwrapped which will celebrate the creative talents of amateurs and professionals across the region. The Civic Society will be participating in the Creativity Unwrapped festival at Wilderspin on Saturday 9 September with displays about some of our famous creative Bartonians.

There will be an arts, crafts and hobbyists fair too, with stalls for showing, demonstrating and selling. If you would like to be involved, please ring (01652 635172) or email (wilderspinschoolmuseum@gmail.com) for more details and to book your space. We are hoping to involve amateur artists of all kinds (individuals and groups), with sales stalls, demonstrations and displays.