

# Barton upon Humber Civic Society

## NEWSLETTER 2019 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue



*Safeguarding Barton's Heritage - Influencing its Future*

*Registered Charity Number 260105  
[www.bartoncivicsociety.co.uk](http://www.bartoncivicsociety.co.uk)*



*Copy of early 19th Century print showing Waterside and Fleetgate*



*Former Watermill, Waterside (c1970)  
Hall's Ropery Buildings with Chemical Works Prilling Tower behind. (photo: John French)*

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018-2019:

### President:

John French M.B.E. 19 West Acridge DN18 5AJ 633538 f.john.french@gmail.com

### Vice President:

Mary Robertson (deceased March 2019)

### Chairman:

Richard Clarke 1 Sluice Road, South Ferriby DN18 6JG 635876 richardclarke278@gmail.com

### Vice Chairman:

Jo Mulhearn 29 Oak Drive DN18 6BY 632634 edge465@btinternet.com

### Treasurer:

Jean Bradley Stoneleigh, Park View DN18 6AX 634267 philby.barton@btopenworld.com

### Secretary:

Andrew Robinson Pearson's Mill, Barrow Mere DN18 6DD 01469 532389 an.robinson@btconnect.com

### Distribution Secretary:

Chris McCall-Steggles 10 Pine Park DN18 5RU 660301 christinemccall@talktalk.net

### Chair, Heritage Sub-Committee

Ian Wolseley 139 West Acridge DN18 5AH 632928 ianwolseley@googlemail.com

### Chair, Environment Sub-Committee

Neil Jacques 15 Queen Street DN18 5QP 632438 neiljacques4@hotmail.co.uk

### General members:

Nigel Land	77 Brigg Road	DN18 5DX	633363	ndland@btinternet.com
Liz Bennet	19 Queen Street	DN18 5QP	635785	liz@the-ropewalk.co.uk
Phil Bradley	Stoneleigh, Park View	DN18 6AX	634267	philby.barton@btopenworld.com
Rose Jackson	3 Chapel Lane	DN18 5PJ	633581	rozejackson@hotmail.com
Matthew Holt	32 Chapel Lane	DN18 5PJ	327677	m-jh@hotmail.co.uk

### Co-opted members:

Pam Anthony 77 Newport DN18 5QF 078336 14676 poppies\_556@hotmail.com

### Webmaster:

Darren Stockdale 164 Butts Road DN18 5JA 632726 info@inbarton.co.uk

### North Lincs Council Rep.

Jonathan Evison 11 Beck Hill DN18 5HQ 07976 276875 jonathan.evison@googlemail.com

All addresses are Barton upon Humber unless stated otherwise

All dialling codes are 01652 unless stated otherwise

Since the committee was elected at the 2018 AGM, Mary Robertson has sadly passed away.

**REMINDER:**

**NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**2019-2020**

Nominations for members of the Barton-upon-Humber Civic Society Executive Committee for 2019-2020 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 each Candidate.

The closing date for nominations is one week prior to the Annual General Meeting on Friday, 19th July. 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.**

**New Executive Committee members are welcome**

**Barton-upon-Humber Civic Society is looking for new members for the Executive Committee. This committee generally meets every month to discuss a range of issues including contemporary history, planning applications and award of a monthly Good Mark for any noteworthy completed development or initiative. If you are interested in being nominated please fill in the Nomination Form.**

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30 pm Friday, 19th July 2019

Joseph Wright Hall  
Wilderspin National School  
Queen Street  
Barton-upon-Humber

## AGENDA

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous AGM held on 20th July 2018
4. Chairman's Report
5. Environment Sub-Committee
6. Barton Beck Sub-Committee
7. Heritage Sub-Committee
8. Treasurer's Report
9. Election of officers
10. Any other business

**Celebration of the Society's 50th anniversary and preview of our Commemorative Exhibition tracing changes in the town over five decades and examining projects that involved the Civic Society.**

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## Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting, held on Friday 20th July, 2018:

### 1. Present:

Richard Clarke ( Chairman ), Andrew Robinson, Anthony Berridge, Janet Driver, Marion Train, Geoff Bryant, John French, Jo Mulhearn, Ro Bryant, Darren Stockdale, Janet Stockdale, Chris McCall-Steggles, Rita Steadman, Dee Burney-Jones, Elizabeth Hopper, David Dukes, Valerie Dukes, June Solly, Neil Jacques, Phil Bradley, Jean Bradley, Stephen Wright, Freda Wright, Rose Jackson, Amy duBois, Susan Johns, Ben Johns, Di Plumb, Nigel Land, John Womersley, Sandra Clayton, Doreen Shane, Jean Willows, Karen Gray, Matthew Holt, Sarah Holt.

### 2. Apologies:

Tony Havercroft, Vanessa Havercroft, Norman Hornsby, Nancy Hornsby, John Mulhearn, Joe Hall, Freda Hall, Ian Wolseley, Liz Bennet, Roger Johnson, Gordon Plumb, Wendy Witter, Sheila Atkin.

### 3. Minutes of the 2017 A.G.M.:

Approved as a true record, proposed by Neil Jacques and seconded by Richard Clarke.

### 4. Chairman's Report:

The chairman, Richard Clarke, reminded the membership that 2019 will mark the Golden Jubilee of Barton Civic Society, and the public programme for next year will focus on this anniversary. The chairman commented that John French had been a committed member throughout the 50 years, and thanked him for his ongoing commitment.

The chairman gave thanks to all the committee members for their efforts over the past year, and was then himself thanked by John French.

In order to comply with new data protection legislation, letters had been sent out to all members requesting their willingness to receive information by e-mail, and at the same time to update their contact details. Approximately 80 forms had been returned to date. Following a complaint from a member, it was realised that some of the Society details on the Charity Commission website were out of date, but this had now been rectified.

It had been decided not to make an Annual award for 2017, but subsequently RC had been given a tour of the new Salvation Army Community Church building on Tofts Road, and found it very impressive, with many eco-friendly features. He is therefore intending to propose that the earlier decision be revoked, and the building be given the Annual award, but this is to be decided by the Executive Committee.

The chairman advised that membership of Civic Voice is under review. Membership is currently charged at £ 1.50 per annum per member, and the committee have queried whether or not this represents good value for money. A list of benefits of Civic Voice membership was read out by Jo Mulhearn, but this was not felt to be particularly advantageous. The chairman asked if any member of the Society would like to speak in favour of Civic Voice membership, but there was no response.

#### **5. Environment Sub-Committee Report:**

The former chairman of the sub-committee, Martin D'Alessandro, had unfortunately passed away in late 2017, and the chairmanship of the Environment sub-committee has now been taken on by Neil Jacques. He reported that the sub-committee are intending to campaign for improvements to the Transport Interchange as their next project. Plans are currently being drawn up by North Lincolnshire Council for an extension to the car park, which will hopefully be constructed by the end of the year. It is understood that the Society will be consulted on these plans.

Further designations of ACVs (Assets of Community Value ) have been achieved for important buildings in the town.

#### **6. Beck Sub-Committee report:**

After seven years, the Beck sub-committee has largely achieved its aims and has now been wound up, with any ongoing matters now being dealt with by the Environment sub-committee.

After being brim full for 3 months until 25th May, the water level has dropped 800mm from the outfall level during the present dry spell, and consequently the area is currently less attractive. Further drainage work is to be carried out shortly to prevent surface water standing in the lay-by. Grass cutting work is currently being carried out by Steve Barley on a voluntary basis, and he was thanked for his efforts.

#### **7. Heritage Sub-Committee report:**

A full report on the activities of the sub-committee had been published in the newsletter by the chairman, Ian Wolseley, who was unable to be present.

#### **8. Treasurer's Report:**

Unfortunately the treasurer's report printed in the newsletter had been subject to a typesetting error, which had caused confusion. Copies of the original, correct report were made available for anyone wishing to see a copy. The Society's investment with St. James Place Wealth Management continues to perform well, yielding £ 1259.88 in income over the past 12 months, in addition to a growth in value of approximately £ 1500.00.

#### **9. Election of Officers:**

The officers of the Society were nominated to continue unopposed, and following a proposal by Rita Steadman, seconded by David Dukes, were re-elected en bloc.

Seven nominations were received for the remaining ten places on the executive committee, and following a proposal by Marion Train, seconded by Anthony Berridge, were elected en bloc.

Liz Bennet has returned to the committee after a few years' absence, and Matthew Holt is a new member.

**10. Any other Business:**

None.

The meeting was concluded at 8.20pm and after a short break, Richard Clarke gave a brief presentation on the Humber Estuary, as the originally planned quiz was unable to be provided.

*Andrew Robinson [27.7.2018]*

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## **Chairman's Report 2018-2019**

*Richard Clarke*

On sitting down to write this report my initial reaction is to exclaim, 'Is it really a year since I did this last?' But on researching an answer, I discover 'It is'. Rather like a minister sitting down to compose a sermon, the next thought is 'What shall I write/talk about this time?' Unlike a minister I don't have a text to refer to, although I do have the minutes of Executive committee meetings across the past 12 months.

As last year the number of Good Marks awarded and presented has been small. One was awarded to the Friends of Baysgarth Park for the establishment of the Chad Varah Memorial Garden (even though a couple of structures remain to be installed), another to Barton Tourism Partnership for the design of their new website while a third was awarded to David Dent (builder) for creation of the new shop front on High Street where formerly was the 'Labels' shop. With this report needing to be written in early March it is not yet known if an Annual Award will be awarded this year although the decision will have been made before the A.G.M.

One feature of Executive Committee meetings is the consideration of 'Affiliations', meaning any reports from other local organisations that the Civic Society is pleased to support. Inevitably most Committee members are also involved with other voluntary societies ('...ask a busy man', no bias intended). Our current list of Affiliations is: Clay-pits group (Humber Nature Partnership and Lincs. Trust), Barton-Cleethorpes Community Rail Partnership, Friends of the Barton Line, Barton Tourism Partnership, Friends of Baysgarth Park, Friends of the Beck, St. Peter's Bells group, Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire and Civic Voice. Civic Voice is a national charity and I have written about it before. Although we decided to continue membership, we are currently trying to reduce the cost of that membership (£1.50 from every member's subscription).

Another standard element in the agenda of the Executive Committee is 'Recording Contemporary History'. Although, it seems to me, that this is a basic role for civic societies, I don't think we are very good at it. In the business of an evening meeting things we have noticed happening around the town are slow to bring to mind and thereby don't get minuted. Maybe we need an external collator who roams the streets (preferably in daylight) and records these things.

It is of course my ever mindful responsibility to formally thank the members of the Executive Committee as listed in the Newsletter for their commitment, enthusiasm, friendship and hard work, and would ask the membership to always bear in mind that they are unwaged volunteers. I also wish to thank all members of Barton Civic Society for your/their continued support and to hope that you find membership rewarding.

I shall not be Chairman for much longer; when the time comes I shall have been Chairman for 11 years across two periods of office. Being 'slap-dash', I haven't double-checked the past minutes stored in the Archives but I believe that may make me the longest serving Chairman of Barton Civic Society thus far, and if so, then it will be a fact of which I am very proud.



# Environment Sub-Committee Report

*Neil Jacques*

*Safeguarding Barton's heritage – influencing its future.*

This is an excellent description of what the Civic Society is about, summing up extremely well the work of the Environment sub- committee over the last 12 months.

Our work on safeguarding Barton's heritage has focussed on plugging away at the parlous state of some of our listed buildings and trying to contact the owners to encourage them to undertake the necessary repairs or refurbishment. Notable among the long list we drew up are Oddfellows Hall and the Assembly Rooms, with other properties of concern including the empty house, 74 Butts Rd, various shop front properties and other private houses. Being the Town Council's rep on the Executive Committee I have been able to raise these matters at the Town Council too, which resulted in the issue being added to the agenda of the NLC led Barton Regeneration Group. The upshot of all this was a specially convened meeting with senior North Lincolnshire Council Officers and other local organisations to discuss the whole list in detail. The Council officers were tasked to find out more about each property and report back to the next meeting in April. I will be able to provide more detail at the AGM. We have also been checking the Definitive Map to ensure all public rights of way are included and taking steps to bring the Council's attention to those omitted. Although we have until 2026 to complete this work we felt it was important to start the process now.

Our main work on influencing the future has been to engage landscape consultants 2B, to draw up ideas for improvements to the Barton Interchange. Our brief included installation of an appropriately combined waiting area including public toilets for bus and rail passengers, remodelling of the car park to provide 64 car parking spaces, improvement of traffic and pedestrian movement around the site and the surrounding area, and various environmental developments. So far we have consulted with the Town Council, Community Rail Partnership and most importantly North Lincolnshire, including their Highways Officers – again as a result of getting it on the Regeneration Group agenda. The scheme met with widespread approval so we await more detail from the Council on the scheme's feasibility and their discussions with other statutory bodies, before we undertake public consultation. There will be a delay as the whole idea relies on North Lincs signing a deal with Northern, the current train franchise of the Barton/Cleethorpes line. As Northern will cease to run the franchise in August, this could be problematic.

We have also undertaken some improvements to the natural environment, taking part in bulb planting, litter picking and replanting shrubs activities in the Fleetgate/Castledyke car park area.

Finally, it remains for me to thanks the other members of the committee without whose enthusiastic support, our work would not be possible – Pam Anthony, John French, Ian Lawless, Andrew Robinson, John Womersley.

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# Heritage Sub-Committee Report

*Ian Wolseley*

Some of the Society's heritage activities have changed over the years while others have remained constant.

- Our programme of talks has increased from taking place originally every three months to eleven annually in recent years. That has made the task more challenging, and planning our fiftieth anniversary year retrospective programme required a little extra imagination!
- The extended heritage festival, as part of Heritage Open Days 2018, built on our earlier endeavours to present a co-ordinated programme for the town. Joanne Marwood and Liz Bennet did

a fantastic job with an extensive, well publicised programme involving over 5,000 visits to the venues and activities.

- The organisation of our biennial competition for schools for some years has been thanks to Rose Jackson who is helping co-ordinate our fiftieth anniversary link with schools using their Log Books.
- Last year's trip to Epworth Old Rectory was the latest in over 35 organised over the years.
- Work on our archive has understandably increased as more material finds its way to us requiring Jo Mulhearn, John French and Chris McCall Steggles to organise, cull, catalogue and co-ordinate.
- For many years Rose Jackson has edited and produced the annual newsletter. The content has expanded to include members' articles. We considered a rebranding to reflect this change – perhaps renaming it a “journal”, but we decided to keep things as they are. This year, however, to celebrate the Society's anniversary, we opted to look back at the work of the organisation in the main newsletter, and publish occasional papers later in the year in a separate edition.
- Ro Bryant has retired from the Heritage sub-committee after many years of involvement, not least with distribution of members' literature, and staffing our merchandise stalls at events. Thank you Ro, for your enthusiastic support. Liz Bennet has kindly agreed to take on this role.

During the year new member, John Farrow, has joined the sub-committee which helps us tremendously in preparing for the challenges of 2019/20 – we are always keen to accept further offers of help!

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*Photographs of the Society's visit to The Old Rectory, Epworth. August 2018*

# Treasurer's Report

Jean Bradley

## Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019

<u>Receipts</u>	£	<u>Payments</u>	£
Subscriptions	1,386.00	Secretarial	385.15
Investments	1,287.64	Subscriptions	125.00
Raffles	282.00	Insurance	72.50
Refreshments	143.31	Printing Newsletter, leaflets, etc	892.10
Merchandise sales	121.12	Flowerbed plaques	55.08
NLC Grant – The Beck	5,146.39	Speakers	307.60
<u>Donations</u>		Plants, mulch, tree, etc.	266.70
Rev Shucksmith	50.00	Room Hire	655.00
Lectures	164.00	Archive Storage	100.00
Newsletter sponsors	215.00	Town Garden Competition	50.00
		St Mary's PCC (Newsltr cover)	20.00
Unpresented cheque	35.00	Raffle prizes	10.67
		Ordnance Survey map licence	65.70
		Website maintenance	35.96
		Wreath	20.00
		Beck Expenses	2,268.00
		Caretaker	14.40
		Annual Day Trip	96.00
		Interchange Consultancy	2,278.20
		High Viz Vests	30.00
		Tripod Screen	<u>100.00</u>
			7,848.06
		Excess of receipts over payments	982.40
	<u>8,830.46</u>		<u>8,830.46</u>

### Reserves as at 1st April 2019

£	
Current A/c	8,531.18
Business Reserve A/c	9,668.18
Investment Capital	<u>33,712.00</u> as at 31st March 2019
	<u>51,911.36</u>

**I have recently met with our Financial Advisor who recommended that our portfolio remains unchanged. Over the years of investment, our Society has benefitted to the amount of £11,000.**

We added a January talk to the annual programme this year and invited Jean Cannon to speak about one of her ascendants, James Creassy, in a talk entitled **A Man of His Time**. Lincolnshire born Creassy was a drainage engineer, land surveyor and traveller. Jean spoke about his works in England and Wales in the late 1700s and his travels in America and India, based on Jean's extensive family history research.

In February we arranged another film screening by the Independent Cinema Office. Their Britain on Film tour included this programme of archive film about **Rural Life in Britain** – a compilation of evocative short films about the countryside of the UK, taking in our diverse and beautiful landscapes. The films touched on all the technological, industrial and social changes that affected our countryside throughout the 20th century.

Our disappointment at having to cancel our March talk was compensated by a memorable **Tour of Beverley** in a talk by Paul Schofield. Paul's images took us on a "virtual tour" of this beautiful market town steeped in history with its wealth of architecture ranging from Medieval through to the Georgian period up to the present day.

In May, over fifty people were treated to a real tour – this time a **History Walk through Baysgarth Park** with Richard Clarke. Richard explored the former parkland of Baysgarth House that once belonged to the Nelthorpe family (1620-1792).

Adrian White explored the wildlife that can be discovered in our gardens and what we can do to help nurture and encourage it. The talk, **Wildlife Close to Hand**, examined how nature reserves can only do so much to help the crisis facing wildlife and how the gardeners of Britain could be a way of easing the pressures by becoming nature friendly through careful planting and using fewer chemicals.

In the summer our July Annual General Meeting was followed by another highly enjoyable side show by Brian Peeps. Our trip this year was to Epworth to see the birthplace of John and Charles Wesley, the founders of world Methodism. The trip included a guided tour of the Old Rectory to learn more about the bustling early years of the Wesley brothers, followed by a guide tour of Epworth which included the spectacular 12th century church of St Andrew and heritage centre, and the beautiful Wesley Memorial Methodist Church.

Between 6 - 16 September we took part in the town's first extended heritage festival as part of **Heritage Open Days 2018**. Co-ordination of the full programme was done as part of the Past Forward project – Historic Barton, and built on our attempts last year to present a co-ordinated programme for the town during heritage weekend. Our exhibition **Welcome to Barton** ran from 8th to 16th September in the Joseph Wright Hall and was based on reflective stories of newcomers to the town. The panels were displayed again in the spring of 2019. Jonathan Evison, chairman of Barton Town Band, gave a talk about the Band, one of the oldest organisations in the town, originating in the mid Victorian era. Jonathan brought us right up to date with the Band's present day 100th world ranking position and its youth development programmes.

In October we went back to Elizabethan times in a talk by Helen Good of the University of Hull's History Department, called **Lincolnshire Cases in the Elizabethan Court of Star Chamber**. Helen shared her recent research into local cases brought before the Queen's Council sitting in the Palace of Westminster. Originally established to ensure the fair enforcement of laws against those in power, the Star Chamber became synonymous with social and political oppression.

Our 2018 programme was brought to a close by a return to Barton by Kevin Leahy. In **Anglo-Saxon 'Productive Site' at Melton Ross** Kevin described how a series of metal detector finds followed by

a multi-disciplinary study showed that the site had the attributes of an Anglo-Saxon administrative centre and that it must have been an important place in the fifth to ninth centuries.

As usual, I am grateful to members of our Heritage sub-committee who help organise this programme, and in particular to Janet and Darren Stockdale for their help welcoming members and visitors, and selling raffle tickets, to Ro Bryant and Liz Bennet for arranging the display of merchandise, to Chris McCall Steggles and Jo Mulhearn for sorting the refreshments, and to Richard Clarke for chairing the meetings.

## **OBITUARY**

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**Dr. Mary C. Robertson,**

**Vice President of Barton Civic Society**

*John French*

Born in Bridlington on 7th July 1924, Mary was brought up in York, and met Jim, her future husband, whilst they were both studying at Medical School in Leeds. They were married in 1948 and set up home in Acomb just outside York. Following Jim's appointment as Medical Officer of Health for Barton-upon-Humber, Brigg and Glanford Brigg, the family moved to 31 Whitecross Street, Barton. Mary was appointed School Doctor and became a very much respected part of the community.

In 1969 Mary and Jim became founder Members of Barton Civic Society, Mary being its first Vice Chairman and playing a very active and appreciated part in the formation of the Society. With Margaret Rook the Hon. Secretary, she produced the first Newsletter.

Subsequent to Jim's further additional appointment as M.O.H. for Gainsborough, the family took up residence in Waddingham in 1971, but after Jim's retirement, Jim and Mary returned to Barton in 1990 and lived in 'Colwell' on Brigg Road, settling again into the life of the community.

Against all odds, Jim was a leading light in the fight to prevent the demolition of the old Church School. The frequent meetings of the Steering Group were held in 'Colwell' where we were made to feel very welcome!

Following Jim's death in 2010, Mary moved from the big house into a fully refurbished bungalow in Castledyke South where she enjoyed living for four years, before moving to sheltered accommodation near Ilkley, closer to her son.

Aged 94 years, following a short illness, and after a long, eventful and happy life, Mary died peacefully on 2nd March 2019. Her funeral took place in Holy Trinity Church, Skipton on 21st March 2019 where the Civic Society was represented by Andrew Robinson and John French who conveyed our sympathy to her children, Andrew, Rachel and Alex and the family.

We in Barton, and especially the Civic Society, have many fond memories of Mary and Jim and much for which to thank them.

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# Articles based on Programme of Talks

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## Barton Bibliography

Richard Clarke

Between 2012 and 2014, although it was not my only research topic, I spent some considerable time and effort in the production of a Barton Bibliography, a chart listing all the books and articles I could discover that dealt exclusively with Barton on Humber or which included substantive references to Barton. Let me state straightway that I greatly benefitted from the input of Geoff Bryant, Anthony Berridge, Nigel Land and Nick Lyons, this being one of the points made in the Introduction. I assumed that this Bibliography would then have a print run, but this didn't happen.

The chart compiled 287 books/articles with date of publication author, title and publisher identified as far as was possible. I also wrote a two-part Introduction and attached six appendices: 1. Barton novelists, 2. Items privately held and available for reference from Brian Peeps, 3. Items suggested by the 'Friends of the Barton Line', 4. Trade Directories, 5. Local Council Reports, Byelaws etc. 6. Miscellaneous.

The project was, in a way, allied to the Barton Book Series, each with the characteristic blue cover, but not officially part of it. It was also allied to the notion that Barton on Humber has probably had more quality research published about its history than any other small/market town, a contention impossible to prove but which would need a lot of evidence from elsewhere to be disproved.

Ideally, the Bibliography would have included a column where the books were/are housed. This would have been a very big task and in the fullness of time may/would have become inaccurate – indeed many of the titles are known to have existed but as to whether any copies survive, and their whereabouts, is not known.

The text of the Introduction, Bibliography and Appendices can be accessed at two sites: on my website [www.richardclarkelandscapehistorian.co.uk](http://www.richardclarkelandscapehistorian.co.uk) where it can be read on screen or printed

off from the Articles and Publications section of the website (section 3), and on the Civic Society's website where it reproduced and currently under review with the intention of redrafting. With being somewhat deflated by the muted response when it was first completed, I have been slack in updating it. Therefore a couple of the more recent publications (for example, Anthony Berridge's excellent book on Barton's railway) have yet to be logged. This is possible to be done on my website but currently not on the Society's website.

The 283 publications listed cover a period spanning 201 years, from 1812 to 2013. Eighteen 19th century publications are cited, 219 from the 20th century while 13 are listed 'Date Unknown'. The chart shows clearly the burgeoning of publications from the 1980s onwards, this to a large extent a reflection of the work of Rex Russell and Geoff Bryant. Incidentally, the Bibliography catalogues the publications of Rex Russell in a rather roundabout way. For the year 1991, the chart records the publication of *Land, People and Landscapes*, a series of illustrated articles one of which being *Rex Russell's Bibliography* between pages 4 and 9. As regards Rex's post 1991 publications, they are either listed in the main part of my Bibliography or in Appendix 6.

The Barton Book Series/ Later History of Barton Series is currently 'resting' but it is to be hoped that when the Civic Society's website is revised it will be possible to update the Bibliography as and when needed.

**Don't forget ...**

**HERITAGE OPEN DAYS  
FESTIVAL 2019  
September 13 - 27**

**Pick up a brochure**

So, you want to know what to read if you aim to get a basic outline of the history of our town. Well, here your troubles begin. Few, if any, small English market towns can claim a bibliography rivalling that of Barton-on-Humber. ‘Why is that?’ one asks. It’s pretty simple – many, but unfortunately not all, people who have learned anything about our town have taken the time to write it down and most fortunately there has been provided a facility to get what has been written down published. So, never forget that if you know anything about the history of Barton and its inhabitants, ‘WRITE IT DOWN’. Unrecorded knowledge is, in the not very long run, lost, wasted knowledge.

Where to start – only one text covers the years between 0 and 1086, my *Early History of Barton-on-Humber* (Barton WEA, 1994). The later medieval history of our town is pretty much a blank but a superb outline of the story is to be found in Warwick Rodwell and Caroline Atkins’ monumental Volumes 1 and 2 of their *St Peter’s Church, Barton-on-Humber, Lincolnshire* (Oxford 2011). As for the post-medieval period, Rex and Froude Russell’s numerous publications, most particularly –

*Barton on Humber in the 1850s* (Barton WEA 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1984) and *Great Changes in Barton 1793 – 1900* (Barton WEA 2002) – provide a splendid outline on which to build further knowledge. A few shelves full of books dealing with Barton’s later industries, social and wartime life, public and private buildings, transport and writers are in print but I would recommend people to have two books available if they wish to study the town on foot – first the splendid *Town Trail* published by the local Civic Society and Richard Clarke’s *Housing in a Nineteenth Century North Lincolnshire Market Town* (Barton WEA 2012) which brings the town’s buildings and streets alive.

Finally, we must never forget the late Ron Newton’s magnificent *My Childhood Playground* (CHAMP 2001). Ron, who would not dream of recognising himself as a scholar, would not stop telling me about his childhood and early adult life in the Waterside area. My inevitable response was always ‘WRITE IT DOWN’, and he eventually did! Would that many more Bartonians would follow Ron’s example - our town would be much richer for their efforts.

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**A look back at Barton upon Humber in 1969, the year of the formation of Barton Civic Society**

*Andrew Robinson*

**Background**

The population of Barton in the 1961 census stood at 6582, and this had risen to almost 7000 by the 1971 census, which is of course closer to our year of 1969. Expansion of the town had started in the 1950s with various new housing developments. The most significant post war development had seen the creation of the local authority estate centred on Bowmandale, still referred to in the 1960s as the “New Estate”. However, by 1969 the first development had begun on the Caistor Road Estate, a total of 121 housing units being completed by 1969. The Overton Court development had seen 86 housing units completed in 1968.

Private builders were also active in the town at that time. Horace Foster had completed his development of West Acridge and Western Drive, and had now moved his operations to the Forkdale area. Another local builder, Denys Field, was at that time building new houses on Hawthorn Gate. Larger building companies from out of town were also constructing speculative private houses at that time, including Warwick Randall, who was developing the southern end of Bowmandale.

Two streets shown on the 1969 map no longer exist. Victoria Terrace was demolished soon after that time as part of a slum clearance programme and the old Stable Lane, which contained four dwellings, was cleared in

preparation for the construction of the Humber Bridge. The former Chemical Lane was later renamed Maltkiln Road.

The “Big Three” Barton factories were still in their heyday. The Ropewalk was still a large employer, but was having to adapt to production of ropes from artificial materials such as nylon, instead of the traditional natural fibres of manilla, sisal and hemp. The large Barton institution of Elswick Hopper cycles had begun a period of resurgence and part of the works had been taken over by the Coventry Eagle company in 1968.

The factory which was in an era of significant growth, however, was the chemical works of Albright and Wilson (formerly A.C.C.). Investment in the region of £2.5m had taken place in this Humber bank factory just prior to 1969, including the erection of the 65m high concrete prilling tower.

The Maltkilns ceased production in 1969, prior to being destroyed in a spectacular fire during demolition works. Clapson’s shipyard was also still trading alongside Barton Haven in 1969, but

was by then a shadow of its former self. Until local government reorganisation in 1974, most public matters in Barton were run by the Urban District Council, governed by 20 elected representatives. Their offices were previously on High Street (now St. Peter’s Court) with the depot to the rear being accessed off Maltby Lane, but by 1969 they had moved to Baysgarth House, with the depot then being housed in Horace Foster’s old premises on West Acridge. The Chief Clerk in 1969 was Mr. John Bott, with other principal officers being Dr. Jim Robertson ( Medical Officer of Health), Alan Johnson ( Engineer and Surveyor), and Jim Kirk (Public Health ). Matters such as Education and Libraries were administered by Lindsey County Council, based in Lincoln. The local MP in 1969 was Lance Mallalieu, the constituency being known at that time as “Brigg”. He was first elected to the constituency in 1948.

G.P. Services were provided then, as today, at the Central Surgery on King Street, with four doctors: Drs. George Birtwhistle, Stephen Howard, John Ball, and John Dickinson. Surgery hours were 8.30am to 9.30am, and 6.00pm to 7pm.

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## **A Humber Bridge theme**

*Richard Clarke*

On 15th March, the third of our Jubilee Year public meetings, a packed meeting room in Joseph Wright Hall was privileged to see an illustrated presentation given by Brian Peeps on the theme of ‘The Building of the Humber Bridge’. The audience’s appreciation was heightened by the fact that Brian had produced the presentation at the last minute as the speaker named in the programme was unable to attend.

The Humber Bridge single-span suspension bridge has gradually had an increasing impact on Barton. Ever since it and the A15 approach road were opened in 1981, Barton residents had direct access to the Bridge via the slip roads and large high-level roundabout immediately west of the town. However the fact that tolls had to be paid to complete a crossing and, despite nine crossings a day to Hull Old Town from

New Holland, for some the fact that it took the traveller out of historic Lincolnshire resulted in it being little used at first. In the 1990s Barton’s housing stock rapidly increased when fields surrounding the town became the sites of new estates. Certainly a proportion of the new residents were re-locating from Hull and the bridge became more of a commuter route, this process having greatly increased since the government wrote-off some of the bridge’s debt, with the building of further estates and the development of a large-scale industrial site immediately east of the town.

Bus services over the bridge have always been advantageous to Barton with Humberside County Council’s Humberlink service and now the 350 service, currently running every half an hour and linking with the ‘Barton Line’ train service to Cleethorpes.





*Barton crowds welcoming The Queen on opening day - 1981*

A road bridge across the Humber Estuary had been periodically discussed for most of the 20th century. In 1930 Sir Douglas Fox and Partners produced a report with drawings for a cantilever type bridge, the architects having considered various options: rail bridge, road bridge (or a combination of the two) or a tunnel. Despite persistent objections from the shipping companies trading to and from Goole and Gainsborough the road bridge plan was accepted by the government, but never built. Rail bridges had previously been proposed in the 1860s and 1880s, but by the latter decade the case had been undermined by the construction of the Hull-Barnsley railway in the 1870s, this carrying coal from the South Yorkshire Coalfield to the newly constructed Alexandra Dock for export.

The suggestion of a tunnel under the Humber Estuary was, across five decades the most thoroughly researched option, this always being envisaged as a rail tunnel. The original plan was for the north bank entrance to be at Anlaby and the south bank one near Far Ings, Barton. Over successive decades, trial borings were done and the suggested entrances and exits moved to the east of Hull and Barton. However, geological problems, finance and other problems resulted in the project never really getting underway. Interestingly, in conversation with Dr. Pemberton after Brian's talk we wondered on the likelihood of the Humber Estuary being crossed by a tunnel once the Humber Bridge has become too expensive to maintain. Whether traversed by a bridge or a tunnel, travellers are spared the ordeal of risking the perils of the treacherous waters by boat crossing, the only option over 1000 years.

Rose Jackson, Editor of the Annual Civic Society Newsletter, had the idea of asking those attending



*The caisson used to construct the southern tower*

the talk to write down any recollections of the Humber Bridge that have lodged in their memory. A number of people did write something before leaving the meeting and their comments are reproduced here:

*'We were involved in the first fund-raising event using the Bridge. Christian Aid raised money for water projects by collecting old-style 10p pieces and stuck-on double-sided sticky tape. We more than crossed the Bridge with 10p coins. The next day the Hull Daily Mail reported difficulties with 'sticky money' jamming slot machines'.*

*'When I was hitching into Barton for the first time in May 1981, as the bridge came into view the driver (Bartonian) commented 'Isn't that the ugliest thing you have ever seen?'*

*'The many wires constituting the two main cables are embedded in red lead. The Barton Central Surgery had the contract to monitor the workforce for the effects of lead poisoning. This presents as anaemia and low haemoglobin'.*

*'My late wife Margaret greatly enjoyed watching the construction of the bridge from her bedroom at Westfield Farm House. Happy memories'.*

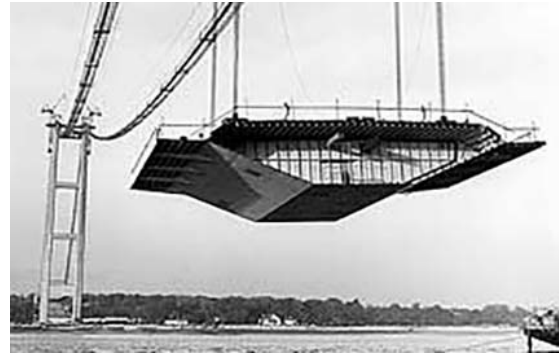
*'City of Culture, earphones, walk, music and sounds of the bridge'.*

*'Riding Carol Warkup's horse on the bridge approach road a week after I came to Barton. The bridge was open to traffic shortly after that'.*

*'Teaching through building – part of a project'.*



*Sections of roadway being lifted into position*



*‘Able to visit parents more regularly across in Hull, not 70 miles round’.*

*‘Roy Castle performed in a marquee on the night of the bridge being opened’.*

*‘Teacher at County School took junior school children to line the bridge on the official opening day. We went back to school and had a picnic and played Games. Geoff Bryant took the Civic Society members onto the bridge, we walked on it and, I think, we went into the anchorage’.*

*‘Memories of sailing to and from Hull to work the day before the bridge was opened. Using the bridge to commute to and from Hull by car in all weathers and times of day and night. Being there when the Queen opened the bridge. Have photos. Getting up early in winter of 2017 morning to stand with the volunteers of Hull City of Culture to see the sun rise and take part in a photo-shoot’.*

**Thanks to Brian.**

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## **The Humber Bridge - A talk by Brian Peeps, introduced by Richard Clarke (March 2019)**

*Ian Wolseley*

A key event that attracted national and international attention in our region during the last fifty years was the construction and opening of the Humber Bridge in 1981. Richard Clarke introduced the evening by summarising earlier schemes to cross the Humber. Numerous proposals over the years to cross the Humber by bridge or tunnel for railways or road vehicles came to nothing. In 1920, Hull City Council proposed a bridge crossing but faced opposition and lack of funds. Approval for the construction of a suspension bridge was finally granted in 1959.

In 1966 Barbara Castle, the Minister for Transport, gave permission for the bridge to be built. The Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, hoped that it would be a vote winner in the forthcoming Hull North by-election. The project caused further controversy both because of the high cost and because the bridge site was not along a heavily travelled route – but the project

proceeded in an effort to stimulate industrial and commercial development in the area.

The underlying geology and surrounding topography would have made a tunnel prohibitively expensive. Although a bridge seemed to be the answer it had to take account of the shifting river bed and navigation channels. The design of a bridge had to allow for a wide, unobstructed passage of vessels and a high suspension bridge, without mid-channel supports, was the answer.

The southern approach road was built first, in July 1972. Foundations for the bridge began in March the following year. Brian Peeps photographed the different stages of its construction over eight years and in this talk used his images to illustrate the unfolding story that so captivated local interest. Brian recalled the emergence of the towers – the north tower stood proudly on the Hessle foreshore while

engineering challenges delayed construction of the south tower due to the mud and soft subsoil of the Humber until the underlying chalk finally provided the stable foundation required. The north tower was completed by May 1974 and the southern tower was completed in September 1976. The main cable then began to take shape – a single cable spanning the towers to begin with, then spinning more cables around this over the next two years. The sections of the road deck were floated out by barge and hoisted into position, starting from the centre. Work was delayed for a time towards the end due to one of the sections partially dropping as it was moved into position. Work began on the administration building in 1976.

Throughout the construction period people standing on the Barton bank would have seen a safety boat positioned downstream of the Bridge in case any construction workers fell into the Humber.

The Bridge was officially opened by the Queen on 17 July 1981. But before then, Brian had a rare opportunity to photograph the completed bridge – from the boot of a car giving a unique shot of the carriageway! It was the world’s longest suspension bridge when it opened, having a main span length of 1,410 metres. The crossing toll cost £1 for a car.

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## Barton and Dr. Beeching

*Ian Wolseley*

In April, our retrospective look at Barton during the last fifty years shifted to the town’s railway link, threatened by closure like many others around the country as part of the national appraisal of the country’s rail network in the 1960s.

Rail historian Stephen Gay shared wonderful images and anecdotes based on his railway rambles along the Kirton Lindsey to Cleethorpes line, including the branch to Barton. Stephen’s images are the result of hours of planning, physical effort and photographic skill and are a magnificent archive record of the changing railway landscape.

From the Archive: Scunthorpe Telegraph, September 2017

**“Barton-upon-Humber’s link was earmarked for the axe by British Railways chairman Doctor Richard Beeching in his infamous Reshaping the Railways report published during 1963. But although he managed to close many, many loss-making parts of the UK network, the Barton line was one that got away. Local people claimed hardship would be caused if trains were withdrawn and it was pointed out that northern Lincolnshire had been projected as an area for large scale expansion. Complaints were lodged and the proposals fought vigorously at public inquiries in 1963 and 1967. After due consideration by the powers-that-be, the British Railways Board was informed that the Barton line had to stay open to passengers. The reprieve was also great news for people who used nearby stations at Goxhill, Ulceby, Thornton Abbey, Barrow-on-Humber and New Holland, which also escaped the chop. Trains linked the Barton area with Grimsby and Cleethorpes.**

**However, although Barton kept its passenger train service half-a-century ago, the station buildings, including the stationmaster’s house, were all demolished in 1973 as part of British Railways’ national clean-up campaign named Operation Eyesore.”**

The Society lobbied to maintain the town's rail link and still takes an active interest in the line's operations. Ongoing efforts to retain and increase use of the railway were outlined by Anthony Berridge, Secretary of the Friends of the Barton Line (FBL). Anthony outlined the efforts by the FOBL, a formally constituted Rail User Group set up in 1998 to represent and lobby for the customers of the railway line to Cleethorpes. Its purpose is to promote and seek improvements to the services and infrastructure in order to stimulate better use of this valuable community asset. It works with a number of partners to do this including the Community Rail Partnership and town councils. FBL has organised lots of fundraising and celebratory activities over the years helping to maintain a high public profile for the Line.

The FBL website reported more recent 'rationalisation' and modernisation works including the automation of manually operated crossings and installation of Payphones, help-points, new shelters, line maps and local information panels. Station platforms have been made more wheelchair compliant. Around two miles of track have been re-laid with continuously welded rail near the water pursuits centre. The service is now known as the Humber Linc.



*Barton Railway Station in 1963 at the time of the publication of Dr. Beeching's report, Reshaping British Railways. This rail link to the town was one of many proposed for closing but public pressure ensured its survival and it is still operating today over fifty years later.*

*Acknowledgement: Scunthorpe Telegraph*

More information about the Line is available from the Friends of the Barton Line website at [www.bartonrail.org.uk](http://www.bartonrail.org.uk)

## **Four Sighs of Relief!**

**A brief summary of a talk given to Barton Civic Society on 12 April**

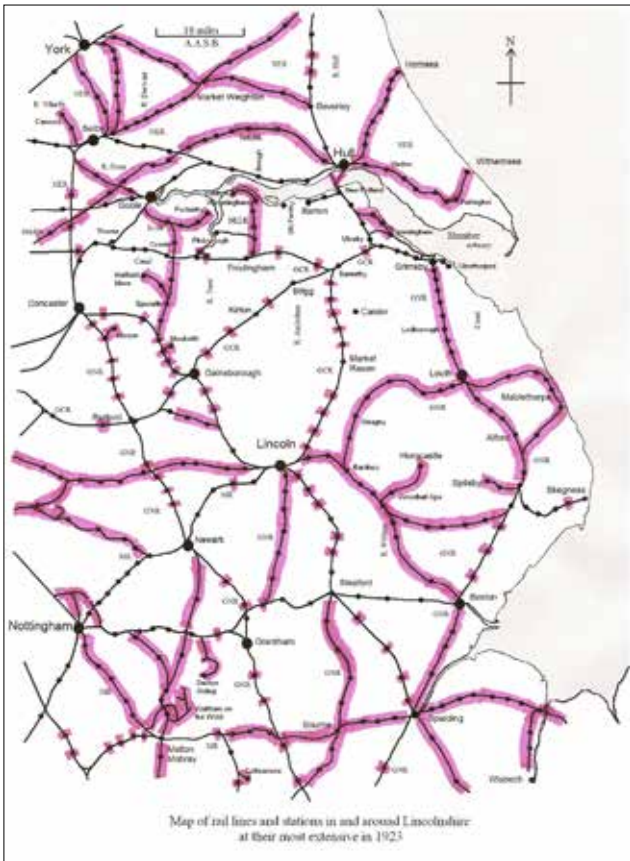
*Anthony Berridge*

Although it is Dr Richard Beeching who is most associated with cuts to Britain's railways, pruning of the network was an ongoing practice well before the publication of his report in 1963. Furthermore, occasional cutbacks have continued to be made right up to the dusk of the 20th century.

Back in 1925, the North Lindsey Light Railway (NLLR), which ran from Scunthorpe to Whitton via Winteringham, was closed to passengers. Eight years later, it was the turn of the Isle of Axholme railway. Then in 1960 came the complete closure of the line linking Louth to Bardney (for Lincoln), and in the following year

a line to Mablethorpe and the northern half of the NLLR and the Grimsby & Immingham Electric railway succumbed. The south of the county fared even worse with some 25 stations closed to passengers in that year alone.

Beeching, therefore, came to accelerate what was already on the cards for those stations and lines which did not pay their way. At a stroke, eight stations on the main line between Barnetby and Lincoln were closed completely. Others on the Scunthorpe and Brigg lines followed in quick succession as did the line from Goxhill to Immingham. What did shock people, though, was the eventual closure of the main



line from Grimsby to London via Louth. The *‘Map of rail lines in and around Lincolnshire’* shows the full extent of the rail closures in this area.

So what of the Barton line? Beeching intended to remove all services from Grimsby to Cleethorpes, and from Ulceby northwards and just keep the Humber ferry running for passengers arriving by car or by a proposed new bus service. A public enquiry was held in 1963 in Grimsby, but closure was fought off on the grounds of public hardship (Sigh of Relief - Number One). A second enquiry was held four years later in Cleethorpes and the day was saved by the government’s decision to set up

an enterprise zone in New Holland – a region which was suffering from high unemployment (Sigh of Relief - Number Two). However, the intention was only to retain the line to New Holland, and the only issue which saved the branch to Barton was the need to retain rail access to the fertiliser works (Sigh of Relief - Number Three). A further threat came in 1981 with the opening of the Humber Bridge and the consequent retirement of the Humber ferries. The passenger service to Barton was to be withdrawn but was saved by the Humberside County Council of the day (however maligned) enthusiastically stepping in to establish a bus link between Barton interchange and Hull (Sigh of Relief - Number Four).

So that brings us to the formation of the Friends of the Barton Line (FBL) who strive to stem, and indeed even reverse, the retrograde steps of the past. Together with Barton Civic Society, we marked the 150th anniversary of the opening of the line with a large handsome plaque which graces the entrance to Barton Station to this day. The government now sees rural lines as community assets and encourages investment where value for money can be demonstrated. We have yet to see extensions to the service but, bit by bit, many enhancements to the infrastructure are being made such as better shelters, improved lighting, real-time information screens and lifts. Later this year, the Barton service will be transferring from the Northern to the new East Midlands franchise and we look forward to working closely and constructively with the winning bidder. FBL was formed in 1998 and so, along with the Civic Society’s 50th, is marking its 21st anniversary this year.

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## Presidential Address

*John French*

I feel proud and privileged to live in Barton and even more proud to be President of Barton Civic Society! Over the last half century this Society has worked so hard and achieved so much in Safeguarding Barton’s Heritage – Influencing its Future, as our strap-line declares!

and achievements. It is important to recount that in our work we have enjoyed liaison with all the various Local Authorities and earned their respect. We also have affiliation with numerous community organisations. I’m sure this has been of mutual benefit.

At this milestone in our history, it is good that this Newsletter recalls some of our work

On looking through the Annual Newsletters and some of the Minutes of the Executive

Committee, I was reminded of the enthusiasm, determination and sheer hard work of the Executive Committee, the various sub-committees (these have been numerous, especially for one-off projects) and the series of Society Officers. Much of this was in the face of apathy and opposition from different quarters, which not only made the Society's work anything but plain-sailing, but led to serious and unnecessary damage and destruction to the town's rich heritage and its environment.

We are still not all singing from the same hymn-sheet, but there has gradually been a greater realisation of the value of what we possess and the need to safeguard it; we are but custodians of a legacy which we should hand on to future generations.

I believe the Civic Society has helped promote civic pride and greater interest in the town's rich heritage and history. Barton is fortunate in having had so many people who are interested in its past and its future! There can be few other towns whose past has been so meticulously researched and recorded. Numerous books and articles on the town's history have been written by Society Members. Also of note:

- The Town Trail/Guide first published in 1983, provides a superb introduction to Barton's architecture and history. This is supplemented by the three self-guided **Walks leaflets**. **'Hidden Histories'**, recently produced by the Past Forward Project, supported by the Civic Society, is a digital version of these Walks. **The**

**Shrink Maps** are also produced through this project.

- Our **Annual Newsletter** and **website** feature a wide range of articles on Barton's history and heritage.
- From its inception, the Society has held **Public Meetings** and **Lectures** and run **classes**, usually relating to architecture, history or the environment.
- The Society gave substantial support to Glanford Borough Council in the foundation of **Baysgarth House Museum**, which opened in 1980 and the production of its **Tourism leaflets**.
- The Society helped save and raise the profile of **51 Fleetgate**. It has attracted thousands of visitors; we look forward to its re-opening.
- The Biennial **Children's Competitions** usually have an historical/architectural theme.
- Numerous **'Blue' Plaques** have been placed on notable town buildings.
- **Guided Walks** round the town, for residents and visitors.

This list could continue!

With the growing public interest in the environment and conservation, we hope for an increase in the Society's membership – enabling us to do even more!

My congratulations and thanks to the Civic Society for all it has achieved over its first 50 years and every best wish for the next half century!

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## Making The Most Of It:

### The redevelopment of industrial sites in the town

*Nigel Land*

It is perhaps difficult for new residents to visualise Barton as a busy industrial centre, where a wide range of products was created. In this short article I will touch on the environmental legacy of four significant employers: bricks and tiles, ropes, bicycles and fertilisers. As I am sure all readers possess a copy of the excellent Barton 'shrink map' which allows the locations to be identified by the map co-ordinates – letter across the top and

number down the side ( these are included in brackets). Of these four industries just one has survived, though at a much reduced capacity, still producing clay tiles and a range of pottery goods.

#### **Brick and Tile Works**

The early years of the local brick and tile industry have been covered in Geoff Bryant's 2007 book that took us to 1900.<sup>1</sup> At that time

it was a major business with clay excavated on a large scale along the Humber Bank. By 1970 there was just one brick and tile maker listed in the town guide – William Blyth of Far Ings Tileries. Today William Blyth is still in production, at Hoe Hill on the east side of the Haven (E1) and at The Old Tile Works to the west (B1), which is also a visitor centre with restaurant and a range of artisan workshops. Regarding all those works that have not survived, but have left many pits from which innumerable tons of clay have been extracted, far from leaving ‘blots’ on the landscape, they have filled with water and provide a superb environment for wildlife and for sporting and leisure activities.

Starting on the west, the Far Ings National Nature Reserve (A1) was acquired by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in 1983, the visitor centre opened in 1991 and bitterns started breeding there again in 2000. Centred on Ness Lake, the visitor centre is a multi-functional facility overlooking the Humber.

To the east of the town, the large pond, known locally as Barrow Mere, was finally worked out by 1953 and became home to the very popular North Lincolnshire and Humberside Sailing Club (F1). Though the old, once Uppleby-owned, Marsh Farm house was demolished, the barn and milking parlour were retained as Club buildings. It should be noted, for the sake of accuracy, that the clay was actually excavated for cement-making by Earles Cement and shipped to the North Bank, rather than for bricks and tiles. Ever resourceful, Earles made a tunnel under the railway line in the 1960s and excavated clay to the south.

The enduring legacy of the brick and tile works is best seen from the air and Michael Lee of David Lee Photography Ltd, kindly provided the photograph of the Barton Humber Bank, taken very



recently (DP6250 should readers wish to order a copy). Both surviving works can be clearly seen.

### Rope Works

The story of Hall’s Barton Ropery (C1) has been well recorded in Will Fenton’s book<sup>2</sup> and great changes have come about between Waterside Road and Maltkiln Road since rope production stopped at the end of 1989. The main ropewalk remained derelict for several years until the whole site was bought in 1994 by the Proudfoot Group, a family-owned Scarborough company that saw the potential for a large supermarket at the north end of Barton. The store, now owned by Tesco, was opened in 1996. In 1999, a partnership was formed between Proudfoot, North Lincs Council and the newly-formed Waterside Artists Co-operative and funds were raised to renovate the south end of the Grade II listed Ropewalk. The first phase of renovation saw the opening in 2000 of two galleries, four studios and a workshop in one fifth of the building. In 2002, I recall spending a few days in the north end of the building with John French, sorting out a mass of old Ropery paperwork going back to the 1950s. The salvageable material was transported by Grimsby archivist, John Wilson, to the archive office where it is available to view by arrangement. The photograph gives an idea of the scale of material stored and was taken on 11 September 2002. It shows John Wilson, Sally Ward from the Ropewalk and Ann Robinson from the Proudfoot Group. The second phase, to regenerate the rest of the building, began in 2005 and was completed in 2006 with the creation of a third gallery, more studios and

workshops and an excellent café where the four studios had been. Bookable meeting rooms were also built and at the very north end, the 120 seat auditorium, the Ropery Hall, where drama, comedy, films and music are very popular with audiences,

some people travelling quite long distances. The creation of this delightful arts and crafts centre from a derelict building has been quite an astonishing feat and it is now a major asset to the town and surrounding area.

### **Fertilisers**

'The Birth and Death of a Chemical Works' was the title of an article in the 1994 BCS Newsletter, written by J Whitmore. He worked on site and recalled the construction of the prilling tower: 'which was to dominate the landscape, being 200ft high with a flue stack on top some further 60ft high.' The new plant was commissioned at the end of 1967, but, following consolidation within the industry, by 1994 the prilling tower had been demolished. Whitmore continued: 'The site still has a lot of buildings left on it which will have to be demolished and the site cleared by Glanford Borough Council; we look forward to that day.' That day was a few years off and involved the removal of vast quantities of contaminated soil, taken by truck to the Winterton disposal site. There was quite a delay to the construction of the Water's Edge Visitor Centre after money ran out. Land reclamation projects are notoriously expensive as there are so many unforeseen problems to solve. Solved they were and Barton now enjoys, after the expenditure of many millions, a superb 110 acre nature reserve and a rather splendid state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly, visitor centre. There are four designated walks in the park and many ponds where much wildlife can be watched.

### **Bicycles**

The 1960s were a time of great change for Elswick-Hopper<sup>3</sup>, with much of the bicycle range contracted out to Raleigh during 1968. This meant a significant loss of jobs, only partly offset by Coventry Eagle, later Falcon, having to find new premises when their Smethwick site was redeveloped and they moved to Barton in the same year, occupying the large Elswick building along Marsh Lane. Then in 1977 Falcon Cycles decided to move to the empty Corah factory in Brigg so that was the end of cycle making until 1983, when Ernest Clements set up Tiger Sports and Leisure in part of the St Mary's Marsh Lane site. This became Nigel Dean Cycles and manufacture continued until the business closed in 1995. During 1986 the last of the property on

Marsh Lane was sold to Meldan Fabrications Ltd and some buildings were rented out to a number of small businesses. At the south end, off Soutergate, W M Codd Ltd has its factory in one of the old Hopper buildings, as does Beck Hill Motors. There was a failed attempt to build a supermarket on the Meldan site. Some of the old workshops have been demolished and residential development is the most likely future for the site. Indeed, a few years ago, plans were drawn up to convert the Elswick building into a stylish apartment complex. Major roof repairs were carried out but work then ceased and current plans are not known.

Moving to Brigg Road, where Fred Hopper started his whitesmith business in 1880, his shop and house were demolished and are now occupied by Milestone Court and Rivergate House and the former workshops just to the south are now used by small businesses. The prestigious Brigg Road office on the opposite side of the road was built in 1905 and used by Elswick-Hopper until 1961 when office staff moved to Marsh Lane. It was used for a while for storage, then sold for conversion to a snooker hall and later used as a second-hand furniture store. It was finally acquired by Barry Smith of Copperfield Developments who began a complex conversion of the offices and a rebuild of the old packing shop to the south. The development was strongly supported by BCS and in 2006 Copperfield House apartments came on the market. The final piece of the picture was the site of the old sawmill and packing box workshop on the south side of Castledyke South, now occupied by the Castle Court development.

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- 1 Bryant, G. and Land, N. Bricks, Tiles and Bicycles in Barton before 1900, (WEA, 2007).
- 2 Fenton, W. ROPEWORKS: A brief history of Hall's Barton Ropery, (Fathom Press, 2007).
- 3 Land, N. Elswick-Hopper of Barton-on-Humber: The story of a great British cycle maker, (Fathom Press).



## Amy's Archaeological Adventure *Transcribed by Rose Jackson*

Drawn to Barton by the prospect of digging at the famous Saxon Church of St Peter's, Amy enjoyed several weeks in 1981 working with Warwick Rodwell and approximately 100 other people. This was a unique job and had been advertised by English Heritage in an archaeological publication. Amy had ten years' experience in digging and a deep interest in the subject so was well qualified for this position. In addition to digging duties, she also happily took on the position of tea lady, which was done in an equally professional manner. Digging is not only thirsty work but can often be disappointing when nothing of interest is found after painstaking probing and investigation. However, when objects and items do materialise, then it is a time for rejoicing. A great deal was found in the ground at that time.

After only two weeks into her first stay in Barton, Amy wrote to her mother that Barton was the friendliest place in England. Amy had previously worked on forty to fifty digs in different communities and never before, had so many people spoken to her on the street in a welcoming manner nor had she ever had so many events to attend. There was definitely more to do in Barton than in Hull! Concerts, coffee mornings .... Getting ready to go out when living under canvas could not have been easy but Amy managed that nevertheless.

*Below: excavations at St.Peter's - Sept 1979 (photo John French)*



Amy returned to dig in Barton for the following two summers and after that, felt compelled to remain in the town and make it her home. Along with Oxford, Barton upon Humber had the highest concentration of archaeologists in the country in the 1980s according to a trusted survey. And the smallish town of Barton even appeared on some American maps due to its historical and archaeological significance. Needless to say, these were just coincidences, because Amy was genuinely so fond of the town and its people she just didn't want to leave. The point that Amy belonged in Barton, or is it the other way round, was made very clear when a stamped and franked letter addressed 'Amy, Barton' was delivered to her house without any problem.

For the most part, Amy has only heard positive comments made about Barton and the area. She has sometimes been surprised when local people have indicated that they did not know about St Peter's Church, even back in the time when there was an invasion of diggers. And not all were totally happy with new Humber crossing arrangements. Once Amy heard a gentleman say that he wasn't impressed by the shape and general appearance of the Humber Bridge and that he preferred crossing the Humber by ferry.

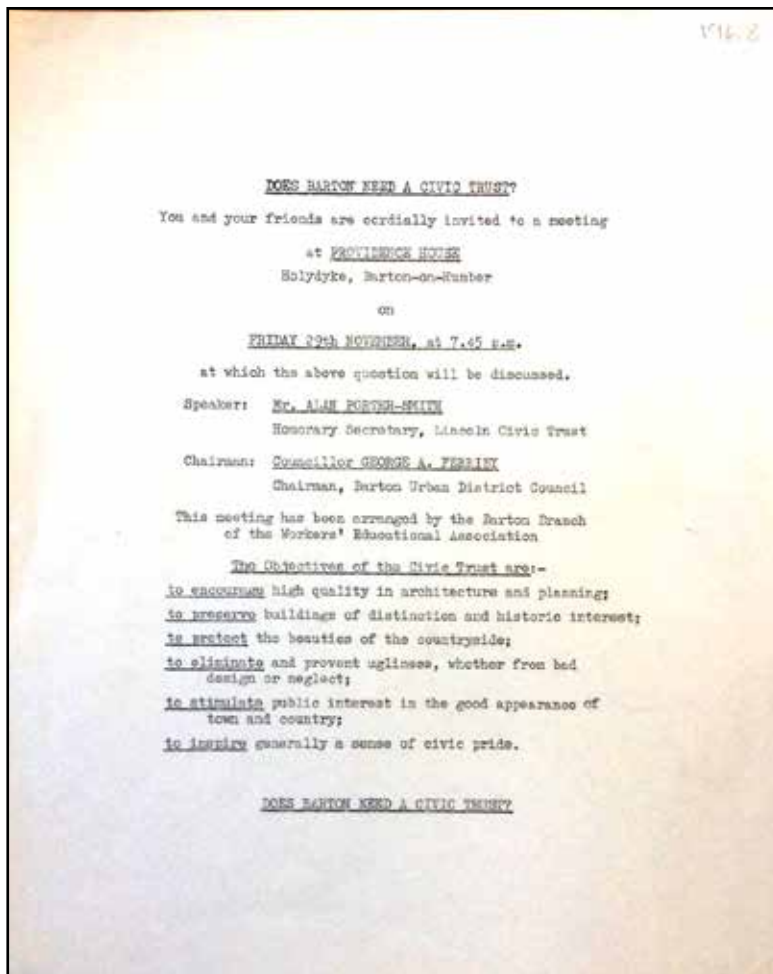
Only this year, Amy recalled, she knew of a couple who stopped briefly on Ferriby Road and after speaking with some friendly people, drove

through the town and then promptly decided to relocate here. It was a very rapid decision to make, but one not to be regretted. As Amy says, 'Barton has so many more wonderful things now. Not only history and heritage and the pull of St Peter's but also the Wilderspin School, the Ropewalk, Water's Edge and Far Ings as well as lots of lovely places to eat in or take out, or to have tea or a coffee.'

# Articles

## Did Barton Need a Civic Society? Formation and Early Years of the Society

Jo Mulhearn



The shrinking countryside is scarred and disfigured by man-made ugliness of every kind. Fine old buildings and whole sectors of historic towns have been thoughtlessly demolished and too often replaced by new constructions of uniform mediocrity. Everywhere there are signs of indifference and neglect.....”

In the years that followed, a number of towns and cities formed their own local Civic Trusts and in 1968 a handful of Barton residents were inspired to do the same.

Some discussion took place in the town during the autumn of 1968 and on Friday 29th November of that year a public meeting entitled “Does Barton Need a Civic Trust?” was held at Providence House. Around twenty people appear to have attended and it was resolved to form a Civic Trust. Instrumental in this were Rex Russell, local historian and University lecturer, and Brian Pettifer a young solicitor who had recently moved to Barton to set up his own practice. Brian had seen for himself the destruction insensitive planners and modern developers had wrought on the Victorian heart of Grimsby and he was keen to prevent similar vandalism in Barton. He felt that, had a Civic Trust existed in Grimsby, more could have been done to protect the heritage of the town.

In the immediate post-war years there was an increasing feeling in certain quarters that much of Britain’s great historic and natural heritage was being lost to rapid development and bad design. The Civic Trust, formed in 1957 and spearheaded by Duncan Sandys, politician and former son-in-law of Winston Churchill, was a national campaign to make better places for people to live in; their aim was to encourage a sense of civic pride and “stimulate public interest in the good appearance of town and country”.

A leaflet produced by The Civic Trust clearly expressed the need for action:

“When we look around, we see so much that is squalid, depressing and unworthy. Many of our towns have grown into sprawling urban masses without shape or beauty. Handsome districts, no longer prosperous, have fallen into decay.

On Friday 7th February 1969 Rex Russell chaired a meeting at which it was agreed to formally establish the “Barton upon Humber Civic Society”. A Constitution was agreed and the Society registered as a Charity. The principles of the national Civic Trust movement were adopted but, in addition, Rex Russell stressed that the newly formed organisation should not be just about the preservation of old buildings, the buildings must be used as part of the life of the community. Their aim was to create character as well as preserve it.

The first committee comprised of Chairman - Rex Russell, Vice-Chairman - Dr Mary Robertson, Treasurer - Brian Pettifer, Secretary - Margaret Rook and committee members were Hugh Varah, Marjorie Chambers and K. Brodie. Membership was ten shillings for adults and five shillings per annum for juniors under 18. The work of the Society then began in earnest. Two major projects seem to have concentrated the minds of that first committee. One was a scheme put forward by Phillip Pape to enhance the Beck area and the other was the restoration of the Market Lane Mill. The Society was also very keen to ensure full co-operation with the Urban District Council Planning and Development Committee and Lindsey County Council, as one of the most important developments that year was the proposal to designate part of Barton as a Conservation Area under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967.

By the end of its first year of existence the Society had over 100 members; the committee had grown to include Mr G. Bryant, Mr R. Clapson, Councillor Mrs Goddard, Mr G. Harris, Mr P. Pape and Mrs E. Russell and it had funds of £41-18s-11d in the Bank.

The issue of the Beck Scheme was to continue for another forty or more years until the completion of its restoration in 2017 and the Old Mill is now a fine example of what can be achieved with determination and sympathetic renovation.

The next major project the Civic Society took on was what the press at the time, described as the “Battle for Baysgarth Park”. As early as 1968 Barton Urban District Council had plans to widen the adjacent Preston Lane and, in order to accomplish this, had sold off part of Baysgarth Park to the County Council. This would have meant the demolition of the boundary wall and the loss of two hundred-year-old trees. When this came to light, Barton Civic Society, led by Mrs Rosalie Hauxwell, protested that the Park had been bequeathed to the residents of Barton in perpetuity by the Wright Taylor family and therefore the Urban District Council had no right to sell the land. Many also questioned whether there was even a need to widen the road and there was strong feeling in the town that Preston Lane was one of the few remaining beauty spots in Barton. After a good deal of legal debate which eventually reached the High Court, and with the intervention of the Attorney General, it was finally declared in 1975 that the land should never have been sold in the first place. The land was re-conveyed to, what was by now, the Borough Council and the road widening scheme abandoned. Preston Lane was saved and remains a delightful reminder of the past.

So did Barton need a Civic Society? Yes, it did then and it does now.

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## **Do-gooders or good doers?**

*Ian Wolseley*

“There is much we want to do,” reported the first Newsletter of the Civic Society in October 1970. Indeed there was – and space here only to concentrate on some notable Society campaigns.

It was wise from the outset for the Society to look for support and so one of the first things to happen was to meet with Barton-upon-Humber Urban District Council’s Planning and Development Committee. Broader encouragement, including project grants, was sought from the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Lincolnshire Association, and Lindsey County Council.

The designation of a Conservation Area in the town (the result of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967) was much anticipated by the Society and was eventually established in 1973. The Society contributed its thoughts during this phase and in response to future modifications and extensions of the Conservation Area.

Looking after the legacy of fine buildings in the town was “on the agenda” early on and a survey of the town’s buildings was promptly undertaken. Separate articles deals with the Society’s efforts to preserve and reuse a number of buildings at risk which began with concerns

about the Market Lane Tower Mill, and with the Society's Good Mark and Annual Award schemes to encourage good care of the built environment. In addition, the Society continues to scrutinise and expressed its viewpoint on planning matters.

An early issue of concern was the appearance and the lack of water at the Beck. Controlling the drainage and water flow seemed to be the issue. Suggestions to fill in and landscape the Beck were strongly opposed by the Society which favoured a 'Village Pond'. Landscaping work in the 1980s led to more problems as the planting matured. In 2003 the issue was resurrected by the Society, supported by the Town Council, which led to its recent restoration – "the most ambitious project undertaken by the Civic Society", as described in detail by John French in the Society's 2016 Newsletter.

The proposal to widen Preston Lane on the north side of Baysgarth Park was opposed by the Society in the early 70s leading to a Public Meeting in 1971. The legality of the scheme was challenged and eventually upheld preventing loss of the historic boundary wall and outbuildings, parkland and mature trees.

In 1989 the Civic Society encouraged Glanford Borough Council to purchase 51 Fleetgate, aware of the historical and community importance of the timber framed medieval house and shop. The Society rented space at 51 for holding its meetings and members contributed hundreds

of hours caring for the building and its garden, and opening to schools, groups and the public.

There were other time consuming challenges such as saving Queen Street School (following its closure in 1978) and contributing to ideas for regeneration of Waterside Road in 1987. A quick glance through the Society's Newsletters reveals other 'niggling' and persistent issues continue to be unresolved or only partially improved. I would describe some of these as amenity or quality of life issues and they include litter, the condition of footpaths, street signage, pockets of dereliction and traffic congestion.

The Civic Society developed recognition as a reputable body that needed to be fully involved in decisions affecting development of the town. Nevertheless, it has always needed to be mindful of avoiding a reputation for 'stopping things', as the Chairman cautioned in 1985, at the expense of encouraging and promoting 'good things' for residents and visitors. These good things have included regular planting of bulbs and trees, conducting litter picks, the recent works at the Beck, cleaning bus shelters and repairing buildings. Members have contributed materials and cash to projects too. And we are grateful to the wider membership for their support and interest over the last fifty years doing our best for Barton.



*Following closure of the Church School in 1978 members of the Civic Society lobbied to save it from demolition and helped keep the site clean and tidy while proposals to save and re-use the building were considered.*

*Members of the Civic Society helping with a spring clean at the Queen Street Church School 1982.*

# Barton Civic Society, a force for good – Reflections

*Richard Clarke*

Has Barton Civic Society actually been a force for good? Well, in the quarter century I have been connected with it I can think of no occasion when it has been a malign force. On an individual level whether a proposal, project or objective is good or not depends on one's point of view. There will be examples, as always in the public realm, where the policy of a public body differs from that of some individuals – the Society's stand on the 'top field' Lidl development being but a recent example.

So in what ways has Barton Civic Society been a force for good?

Members of the Society's Executive Committee have always worked to maintain and improve the living environment of parishioners. Standing testament to this is the fact that with almost 200 members (this is a higher proportion of the population than is the case with other Humberside communities), with very few recorded criticisms and with consistently high attendance at public meetings the Society is providing benefits to the people living in the community, and beyond.

As regards the local environment the Society has a proud record. The restoration of the Beck, along with other stakeholders, is a fine example as is the Society's long-term commitment to tree planting throughout the local community (see Andrew Robinson's recent article). Always supportive of autumn bulb planting initiatives, the Society is now progressing a programme of planting upgrades to small areas around the town with no hard surfacing. In this respect the Society has stood alone in trying to reverse the loss of trees that once graced the local environment, this evidenced in the many old photographs in the collection of Brian Peeps.

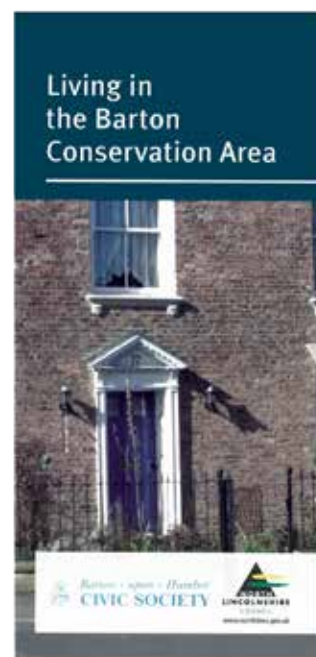
Barton's built environment has also benefitted from the efforts of the Executive. Part of the Society's role is to weekly monitor planning applications and to respond accordingly. Our recent circular delivered to every property in the Conservation Area was well researched, written and received. Worthy of praise is the Society's support for the upgrading of facilities in

Baysgarth Park which have led to the Green Flag award. Of course the Society is not empowered to have its own way, the decisions of the local authority planning committee are final and they may, or may not, agree with the Society's considered response to planning applications.

Currently we are being encouraged to consider a number of initiatives proposed in recent planning legislation and by Civic Voice. Here is not to consider the past but to focus on the future. However, the Society will need to beware of getting too involved with fine sounding projects which may prove to be 'paper tigers' in the face of current political resolve to relax planning regulations.

Barton Civic Society formally supports a number of other voluntary organisations working to benefit the local community in one capacity or another.

Finally, the Society has been a force for good for its current Chairman. Coming to Barton in the wake of somewhat unhappy circumstances and in wondering whether to get involved at all, the Society welcomed me and, unlike my other relationships, we have stayed together. So, on balance, Barton Civic Society has been a force for good.



# Safeguarding our Heritage – Influencing our Future

Ian Wolseley

The Society's heritage agenda has evolved to include monitoring changes to the built environment, celebrating good practice and cultivating an interest in our built heritage through talks, visits and publications. Heritage issues were monitored and regularly reported right from the start and they are described elsewhere in the Newsletter and in our summer exhibition *Safeguarding Barton's Heritage*.

## Monitoring Change and Celebrating Good Practice

An awards scheme was first suggested in 1973 to recognise private and commercial developments in keeping with the town's heritage. This developed into the Good Marks scheme, and we would like to think that, over the years, it has increased awareness of the special character of our buildings and encouraged sensitive maintenance and renovation.

In 1974 the responsibility of scrutinising planning applications, including building restorations, was assigned to an Environment Committee – a time-consuming activity that has continued to this day.

Government grants became available as part of the designation of the town's Special Conservation Area in 1981 which aimed to encourage greater awareness of our built heritage among the building trade. In 1986 the Newsletter contained an extract from, of all places, *Concrete Quarterly*: "the public preference for old buildings is not necessarily just a matter of sentimental nostalgia but quite often a yearning for quality materials and craftsmanship which were commonplace in past eras but which have all but disappeared today ..." So, it seems, we were not just a "voice in the wilderness"!

Over the years we have sought support from over fifty organisations ranging from our changing local councils to interest groups such as Keep Britain Tidy (1986) and the National Victorian Society (1988) as well as other civic societies and amenity groups including Caistor Civic Society (1978), Boston Preservation Trust (1980) and Lincolnshire Federation of Civic Societies (1996).

## Cultivating Interest in the Built Environment

Trails and leaflets have played their part in opening people's eyes. Work on *A Walk around Barton* started in 1975 and culminated in publication of *The Town Trail* in 1983. Since then the Trail has been revised and updated. Mini trails were first explored with the help of Glanford Borough Council in 1992 and were gradually published over the next few years: Waterside Trail (1994), Victorian Walk (1996) and Georgian Walk (1998). All have been subsequently re-designed and updated. In 2007 two new leaflets were produced exploring the public rights of way across the parish from the Humber bank into the Wolds. These are available at museum and library venues throughout the town and have been distributed at community events such as the Barton Christmas Festival and farmers' markets in Barton and at the Humber Bridge to promote awareness of the town's heritage.

Our 'jewel in the crown' for many years – and the very public face of the Society's heritage credentials, was 51 Fleetgate, a medieval merchants' house with its timber frame construction still visible, and its later modern association as a barber's shop, newsagent and Fred Clipson. Following the Regeneration Project in the early 1990s this became the Society's base. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed our open days and window displays. Due to the condition of the building we had to 'decamp' in 2015 and move the Archive to the Wilderspin National School Museum.

The annual newsletter has grown from humble beginnings - the first issue was a two page news update. A journal-style publication with well researched articles began to appear from 1994. Recurring themes have included under-appreciation of the town's pulling power for visitors and tourists until more recently (despite a world record breaking Bridge and a National Monument at St. Peter's), and neglectful attitudes to "small" things like litter, signage and weeds.

The Society's Archive has grown over the years. Its organisation and cataloguing is an

ongoing task. In 2000 we took possession of the Ann Los Brick Collection which displayed in the Waterside Heritage Display at the Ropewalk. The Memory Bank oral history project was started in cooperation with Baysgarth House Museum in 1983, recording over 40 interviews in its first four years. Regular recording of Contemporary History began in 1994. Within the minutes of every monthly meeting is a summary of key events and changes in the town spanning fifty years.

Stimulating awareness in heritage among children and young people began in 1980, and in 1988 our story writing competition started. It evolved into our bi-annual competitions from 1991 which has encompassed poetry, painting and crafts. A significant part of appealing to children and families has been our themed days including several Victorian Days and a Medieval Day – described by one young participant in 2000 as ‘better than a Playstation.’

Our involvement in Heritage Open Days began with guided walks and the opening of 51 Fleetgate. In 2016 we began to attempt to co-ordinate events across the town, attracting over 600 visitors during the heritage weekend in September, and many more who visited the town’s museums. In 2017 and 2018 the programme has mushroomed as part of the Past Forward project with support from Arts Council England to fund a Project Co-ordinator. The project aims to promote the town’s heritage to a wider audience and has led to the creation of a digital phone app tour of Barton, an online presence (*Historic Barton*) and a family guided tour (*Hidden Histories*).

A lot of research and investigation into Barton’s history has been done over the last fifty years thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of members, and also with the support of organisations including the Workers’ Education Association. Consequently, the town has had more publications published about it than most towns of a similar size. Our first Day School was in 1972 looking at the architecture of the town. Other themes were: village conservation (1975), domestic architecture (1975) and St. Peter’s Church (1980).

We have worked on a number of projects with North Lincolnshire Council. Members conducted

a recent survey of snickets in the town to assist the Council with their maintenance. In 2016 we helped the Council produce leaflets explaining the responsibilities of householders within the Conservation Area regarding the repair, maintenance and restoration of their property. More recently we were instrumental in getting a number of public buildings listed as Assets of Community Value (ACV) – beginning with Providence House in 2017. This listing is an ‘insurance policy’ against them closing, giving the community a breathing space of six months to consider their future before being sold for other purposes. Other buildings that have been listed as ACV include the Assembly Rooms, the Wilderspin National School, Joseph Wright Hall and Baysgarth House Museum.

Our programme of public meetings began in 1988 – initially there were four quarterly lectures each year but this has grown to our current programme of eleven monthly lectures.

Over thirty five trips have been arranged over the decades, for members and non-members, to places of historical interest including Louth (1973), Stamford (1980) and Heckington (1994). Invaluable links with other civic societies and amenity groups have been forged along the way.



*Rex Russell (1916-2014) was a founder member of the Civic Society and served as many years, first as Chairman and later as President. He was a foremost scholar and historian of the town and district. His many publications covered the history of Barton, its cultural life, its schools and chapels, its economy and its public buildings.*

One of the Society's aims, mentioned in its first Newsletter, is 'to preserve buildings of distinction and historic interest'.

## **Market Lane Mill**

Among our earliest projects was a scheme for the Civic Society to lease this mill from the owner, and restore it, including fitting new sails! Whilst this ambitious venture had to be abandoned, the Society did continue the fight to avoid its demolition, and supported various schemes, including its proposed successful conversion to the pub and restaurant, completed in 1991.

**The Old Water Mill** at the head of the Haven. The Water Mill (and adjacent House) is in the foreground of the early 19thC print showing Waterside Road and Fleetgate. The Mill Dam is on the right hand side at the NE corner of Dam Road.

In spite of a successful application for 'listing', and several suggestions for alternative uses, this former Mill was demolished in 1975. Being of great antiquity – it had housed one of the Water Mills, mentioned in Domesday – the Society ensured that this building was comprehensively recorded. Incidentally, during work in the construction of the present road bridge over the Haven, the Mill Race was uncovered.

## **St. Peter's Church**

Having ceased to be used for worship in the late 1960s, this building had begun to deteriorate. Suggestions were being floated for the demolition of the medieval nave and chancel – leaving the Anglo-Saxon tower and the western annex or instead of complete clearance, just removing the roof and leaving it as a ruin, like Coventry's old Cathedral. Faced with this serious threat, the Civic Society campaigned for the church's re-use, resulting in the D. of E. taking the building under its wing in 1974. Following extensive excavation (it is the most researched extant church in Britain!) and restoration, it was re-opened in 1987.

## **The Old Boat House** at the 'Point'.

The Society supported Barton Town Council's request for restoration, in the face of proposed demolition. The building was restored in 1979.

## **The Church School**

During a lengthy and bitter battle, begun in 1982, against its demolition and inappropriate redevelopment of the site, the Society was instrumental in the establishment of the Queen Street School Preservation Trust in 1993, which continued the campaign to save the School. After several abortive schemes involving North Lincolnshire council, the Trust managed to restore the building and opened the widely acclaimed Wilderspin National School Museum in 2009. (Many reports on this saga are contained in the Civic Society's Annual Newsletters.)

## **The Assembly Rooms**

The Society supported the Town Council's efforts to save this important public hall, part of the 'unique' group of Victorian public buildings in the Queen Street/High Street area.

## **51 Fleetgate**

Having raised awareness of its historic significance, the Society was instrumental in the building being acquired and restored by a Buildings Preservation Trust. The property is now owned by North Lincolnshire Council and is leased to 'CHAMP', which did allow Civic Society Members, especially Eddie and Val Maxworthy, to open the building and show thousands of excited visitors round the oldest house in North Lincolnshire! A good case was made out for its use as a Tourist Information Centre.

## **Providence Chapel**

Keith Miller's excellent article in last year's Newsletter highlights the importance of this Chapel and its adjoining Manse, and the Civic Society's efforts to retain its 'unique' interior. We are, of course, supporting the owners, Matthew and Sarah Holt in their aim for its restoration.

## **Hewson's Mill**

This Mill is a rare survival as it still retains much of its original machinery – in most disused mills, it has been long lost. Whilst generally supporting applications for Planning and Listed Building Consent, the Executive Committee has requested a more sympathetic treatment of the building and its



machinery; this view is also shared by North Lincolnshire Council's Planning Committee. We hope for a swift and satisfactory outcome. Over its 50 years of existence, the Civic Society

has supported the restoration of many buildings, but the above represent those with which it has been particularly involved.

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## Marks of Distinction

*Ian Wolseley*

One of the original aims of the Society was 'to inspire generally a sense of civic pride'. This has been done through the display of commemorative plaques at a number of sites which identify them as important places or buildings, or perhaps because of their association with significant people.

The second type of plaque residents and visitors see is our Annual Award plaques. In 1973 the Society announced its intention to make two small cash awards for 'the best private and best business improvement scheme' during the year. After surveying a number of properties a sub-committee submitted a shortlist for independent adjudication by expert judges.

From 1977/78 a plaque was awarded to 'premises, domestic or industrial, which merit recognition for praiseworthy modernisation, reconstruction etc.' The first award was presented in 1979 to Peter Birse Ltd., Civil Engineering on Humber Road for 'their pleasing, well-designed new office building'. The idea was that the plaque be displayed for one year before being removed for presentation to the next recipient.

The judges' comments give an interesting insight into the condition of the town's built environment over the years. In 1981 they commented that, 'a number of empty, neglected empty properties which, through lack of maintenance, are tending to detract from the character of the Conservation Area and the town generally.' But also, 'that much noticeable improvement work was in progress and that there would likely be strong competition for the Award in 1981.'

In 1981/82 two award categories were introduced: one for the best restoration/conservation work and the second for

the best new building. The judges were particularly pleased that a refurbishment of the Nottinghamshire Building Society premises on King Street had responded to the Society's earlier planning objections about the original proposal. In 2002 the categories were modified again: buildings, environmental improvements, cultural events and artefacts. The first winner of the latter category was, posthumously, Ron Newton for his book, "*My Childhood Playground*". Nominees from this time had to be recipients of a Good Mark earlier in the year.

A number of recipients of the Award had expressed disappointment that after a year the plaque had to be returned. It was therefore decided, in 2007, to allow winners to keep their plaque – more costly to the Society but with the advantage of permanently identifying winners each year.

Another way the Society has recognised efforts to improve the appearance and life of the town is the Good Marks scheme. In 1982/83 our Good Marks were introduced for owners of buildings, organisations and individuals who had contributed to the visual improvement of the town.

Our awards have been an important part of reinforcing the Society's commitment to encourage the positive rather than concentrating on the negative – a theme picked up by the Chairman, Geoff Bryant, in the 1985 Newsletter. In the same year, the judges praised the efforts around the town to achieve a standard of development which reflected the historic and architectural styles of the town and commented that 'it is hoped this increased public awareness will continue to gain ground'.

In 1985 it was considered whether to include gardens for Good Marks but this was decided against, due to the likely difficulties. This is

something the Town Council took on as part of its annual Best Kept Garden and Hanging Baskets competition.

The 1994 Newsletter reported that the downturn of the economy seemed to have brought the Good Marks and the Annual Award schemes to a “virtual standstill”. There was, apparently, very little new building going on. No Annual Award was given in the following two years.

From 2000, because of rising costs, it was decided to award just one plaque per year. A Green Mark was eventually introduced to recognise environmental projects. Two

recipients to date include Steve Barley (2015/16) for his work maintaining the shrubberies around the rail-bus interchange, and the volunteer gardeners (2016/17) at the Wilderspin National School Museum

Recipients of Good Marks receive a certificate and we are grateful to Geoff Bryant for preparing these over the years. Former Society Chair, Richard Clarke, particularly enjoyed distributing them to the winners as he described in the 2002 Newsletter. It enables the Civic Society to promote a positive and encouraging public face and celebrate what Geoff Bryant described as ‘the good things’.



Baysgarth House plaque 2010

*There are over twenty building markers throughout the town which also link with various heritage trails the Society has produced.*



Annual Award 2009 Queen Street School Preservation Trust

*John Walker, left, Chair of the Queen Street School Preservation Trust receiving the 2009 Annual Award from Civic Society Vice Chairman, Eddie Maxworthy.*



Annual Award 2011 53-57 Fleetgate

*The Annual Award in 2011 was awarded for restoration work on the former Georgian Coach House at 53-57 Fleetgate.*

# Work of the Environment Sub-Committee over the years

*John French*

Established 45 years ago, this sub-committee has concerned itself with all issues relating to the town's environment, including its buildings, open spaces, street scenes and public amenities.

## **The General Environment**

The volume and weight of traffic through the Town's environmentally sensitive areas is an issue on which the Society has repeatedly campaigned for improvement. It remains a serious and growing concern.

## **The Northern Relief Road**

In 1974, Mrs. Maud Barraclough, a founder Member of Barton Civic Society, independently suggested a route linking Barrow Road with the A15 dual carriage-way. This suggestion was strongly endorsed by both Glanford Borough Council and Humberside County Council – and officially called the 'Barraclough Route'!

## **The Eastern Relief Road**

In 1993 the Civic Society and several of its Members gave evidence at the Public Inquiry into a proposed road, to be constructed from Bonby Lodge Interchange, through Deepdale to Falkland Way. The importance and practicality of a Northern Relief Road was put forward, rather than an Eastern Road. In his Report, the Inspector chairing the Inquiry agreed that the Northern Road would be far more beneficial to the Town, but that the Eastern Road could be built more quickly; he therefore recommended the Eastern Road.

A Relief Road for Barton is currently being reconsidered by North Lincolnshire Council. If only Mrs. Barraclough's vision had been made a reality!

## **Fleetgate**

Fleetgate is one of the Town's most historic and potentially attractive streets - described by Nikolaus Pevsner as "visually delightful" - but it has suffered seriously as the main route for traffic to and from the Waterside area - 10 years ago, 4,500 vehicles a day! The fate of this narrow street has been a perennial problem, highlighted throughout the life of the Civic Society. Some improvements were effected

through the intervention of the Civic Trust around 1990 but the relentless traffic onslaught continues! A 20mph limit, together with the removal of the ineffective but noisy 'rumble-strips', might bring some slight relief to the residents.

A comprehensive review of traffic movement in Barton is long overdue.

## **Barton Regeneration**

The regeneration of Barton was initiated and actively promoted by Barton Civic Society.

## **Waterside Survey**

In 1987, at the request of the Town Council which had received complaints from residents about the state of St. Chad's Church and Waterside Road, especially with the increase of visitors to Waterside, the Society's Environment sub-committee undertook a Condition Survey of this Road. Whilst many properties were in excellent condition, a number of derelict buildings and sites were targeted for improvement; a comprehensive, not piecemeal, approach was recommended. The closure of the Chemical Works in 1988, followed by the Ropery the following year, produced an even greater demand for regeneration in the northern area of Barton than had been identified by the Civic Society in its Waterside Survey. Much has, thankfully, taken place – especially on the Chemical Works and Ropery sites – and other projects have been implemented.

## **Butts Road**

Largely thanks to the campaigning by the Civic Society in the late 1980s, Butts Road saw major improvement; the length between Queens Avenue and Marsh Lane was lowered and the carriageway widened; whilst, on the length between Marsh Lane and Pasture Road, the open section of Butts Road drain adjoining the Cricket Club field was culverted and back-filled, enabling the creation of an ornamental verge and off street car parking, together with carriageway improvements. The design for the back-filled area was by Miles Hopper, a member of the Society.

### **The Civic Trust's assistance**

The Civic Society introduced its parent body, the Civic Trust to Barton; together they provided a major boost for the Town's regeneration, working with Glanford and Humberside Councils. The Town was considered a suitable candidate for a Civic Trust Project as:

- Barton has an excellent heritage of buildings,
- the town has a rich history,
- it has an active and dedicated Civic Society.

As a start, the Civic Trust spear-headed a modest Regeneration Scheme for the Transport Interchange and nearby area, including the narrow section of Fleetgate, which was implemented by Humberside County Council.

The Civic Trust's offer of a jointly funded **Townscape Appraisal** for the rest of the Town was never taken up as Barton Civic Society had other potential demands on its funds. However, the Civic Society did play a very active part in the subsequent "SRB" regeneration proposals for the whole of Barton. Over the years, several **Condition Surveys** of the Town have been made to identify and take action on neglect and possible improvement, and street enhancement. However, there still remain areas of concern, which the current **Barton Regeneration Group** are tackling; it is pleasing the Civic Society is a member of this partnership!

### **The Public Transport Interchange and area**

Following the sad demise of the historic Railway Station buildings in 1973, the whole site was generally neglected, and attracted much adverse criticism. In 1977, Civic Society Members, with the help of the Barton Cubs and Scouts cleared debris from the former Coal Depot and planted some trees.

A few years later in readiness for the opening of the Humber Bridge, a Bus Station with toilet facilities, and Car Park were created on the south-west corner, fronting Fleetgate and Butts Road; other areas were occupied by the Anglian Water Authority's two Pumping Stations. However, the area of the former Goods siding, opposite to and North of the Railway Station, was left overgrown and derelict. Having obtained a licence from Network Rail, and thanks to members - the late Martin D'Alessandro and Mr.

Stephen Barley - this area has been cleared and cared for; Stephen still does look after it! The area to the east of the Car Park has largely been neglected, but recently an ambitious scheme for the complete redevelopment of the Bus Station and an enlarged Car Park has been rolled out by the Civic Society. Hopefully, this will see the long-overdue provision of basic facilities for the travelling public - promised 30 years ago, and the creation of much-needed additional car parking.

### **Barton's Special Conservation Area**

This has always been supported by the Society. It was thanks to the outstanding quality of the Conservation Area and the valuable historical and architectural information supplied by the Civic Society that a **Town Scheme** was introduced in about 1982, through which grants of up to 50% were available for the restoration of buildings in the Conservation Area. Recently, the Society, in conjunction with North Lincolnshire Council, produced a **Conservation Area Guidance leaflet**, which was distributed to all properties in the Conservation Area. This leaflet has met with national acclaim!

### **Planning**

#### *Strategic Plans*

Over many years, the various Local Authority Strategic Plans for Barton and district have been comprehensively studied and commented upon. This has been much welcomed by the Council officers! To complement the existing strategic plans, the Civic Society is promoting the introduction of a **Barton Neighbourhood Plan**.

#### *Planning Applications*

From the Society's earliest days, a dedicated group has routinely kept a close eye on Planning Applications and responds appropriately.

### **Miscellaneous**

'Good Marks' have been given since 1982 in recognition of excellence in new-build and restoration; these are used as a short-list for the **Annual Awards**, the winner of which is given a plaque to display on his building.

*Flood Defences* for the parish of Barton were

thought by late Member, Dr Jim Robertson to be inadequate. The outcome of his attention brought about improvement and saved the Town from much worse effects of the 2013 tidal surge!

#### *Assets of Community Value (ACVs)*

Applications have been made to North Lincolnshire Council for a number of buildings and areas to be regarded as ACVs; should these be presented for sale, the Community would be given 'first refusal'.

Also applications have been lodged to have certain public open spaces given Village Green status.

*Rural Public Footpaths (Parish Paths)* were walked regularly by Society Members in order to check and support their accessibility. This is now done through the Town Council. A set of Parish Paths leaflets was produced by Richard Clarke.

#### *Urban Footpaths/Alleys/Snickets*

At the request of the Town Council, all these have been surveyed, a detailed Report prepared, and proof of their long-term use obtained. North Lincolnshire Council has been asked to confirm their status as Public Rights of Way.

#### *Tree Planting*

Tree planting in the Town has, from its earliest days, been a principal objective for the Society – firstly, suggesting sites for Council planting and, from 1977, 'hands on' with Members of the Society and other local organisations. (Please see Andrew Robinson's article).

In 1990 the Society donated fifteen English oaks and thirteen field maples to replace storm-damaged trees in Baysgarth Park.

#### **Other hands-on projects**

- Deep-cleaning the several brick-built bus shelters (Ferriby Road, Holydyke and the former one in Market Place).
- Litter-picks, together with the Town Council and local organisations, and street sweeping. (There is continued concern at the lack of litter bins in some areas, and inadequate street sweeping where access for the mechanical road sweeper is difficult)
- Replacement of missing shrubs in the beds adjoining the Castledyke West/West Acridge (St. John) Car Park.



Acknowledgement: Scunthorpe Telegraph [1988]

- Removal of ivy which was damaging town centre trees. NL Council has also been requested to tackle this problem.

#### **Conclusion**

I believe that without the varied and extensive work of the Civic Society's Environment sub – committee, this Town would be all the poorer. Thank you to all sub-committee members and all who have supported them in their efforts to make Barton even more attractive!



We were introduced to 51 Fleetgate by Richard Clarke who gave us a guided tour of this wonderful old building. At that time the building was undergoing major renovation in parts. It was open from the floor to the magnificent crown post roof. We can remember walking in and wondering how on earth are they going to sort this out! Well they did, and what a grand job they made of it. A couple of years later we got involved with other Civic Society members, showing members of the public around. We found this very rewarding, just to see the reaction from people and the expression on their faces. We eventually accepted responsibility for arranging open days, school visits, refreshments, arranging the rota for tour guides etc.

Timbers in this building date back to the early 14th century, it being reputed to be the oldest domestic dwelling in North Lincolnshire. It was built for a merchant working the River Humber. In the 14th century the outlet from the Humber which, which runs past the Ropewalk went at least as far as Finkle Lane, so Fleetgate would have been much closer to the water.

The last occupant of 51 Fleetgate was the Clipson family, Fred Clipson was a barber and newsagent; he also sold many household objects. Local people always said what a nice man he was ; we got many visitors who used to deliver papers for Fred, all saying that he was very strict and very fair, always paying more wages than other newsagents.

Fred did not like change, which is very fortunate for us; he hid not like modern gadgets and never made any attempt to modernise the house. Fred was very interested in local history, but we feel quite sure that he did not realise the importance of the property he owned.

Because of the amount of interest shown by visitors in the Clipson family, we decided to hold a Clipson Weekend, advertise it and see if we got enough interest to produce a Clipson family tree. We were amazed at the response! Members of the Clipson family came from far and wide, it really was amazing. Some did not realise they were related, some had not seen each other for years, some had lost contact and were reunited.

Members of our executive Committee attended and took information from family members. The weekend was so popular we had to open the following weekend to accommodate more family members. This venture was a huge success; our thanks must go to the people who gave up their time to help make this possible.

School visits were very popular when we put on a Victorian Wash Day. Half of the children would be shown around the house and the remaining children would be shown the washing utensils, instructed on safety and how things were done in Victorian times. The children were then split into small groups and washing proceeded using dolly tubs, poshers, scrubbing boards, mangle (this was operated and supervised by an adult at all times). Overall supervision was provided by Val Maxworthy and Val Scally, a retired school teacher from Immingham. The two Vals worked at Eastfield Infant School, Immingham for about twenty three years. After retiring, both Vals visited schools on behalf of Immingham Museum, doing Victorian Wash Days and The Home Front 1939-1945, so were well qualified in what they were doing. We also had the visiting teachers and helpers to assist.

Whilst all this was going on, the other half of the visitors would be upstairs completing their guided tour and making their way into the large room where they would be asked to sit down and take part in a quiz. On the table we laid out some domestic artifacts for the children to handle and guess what they were and what they were used for.

On entering the barber shop a hand basin with running water could be seen; this was the only running water ever to be installed in the property, no hot water, just cold. The sink was never attached to a drain; it emptied into a bucket underneath which ran into the gutter outside. Any water required for washing, cooking, cleaning etc had to be collected from the hand operated water pump, situated in the back yard. This was all very well during nice weather, but how about the winter when it was freezing cold, snowing or raining?

Gas lighting could also be seen in the shop as well as a Victorian fire place and lots of old hair cutting and shaving implements and the old barber's chair.

Continuing into Fred's dining room/kitchen could be seen the old range where Fred would do his cooking. In this room are some very old timbers and a small cupboard next to the old range.

We always asked, 'What do you think would have been kept in here?' This old cupboard is where they would have stored anything they did not want to get damp. This would have included kindling and paper for lighting the fires, matches, sugar, salt, tea, flour coffee etc.

Before the stairs and dividing walls were installed to convert the building into a domestic dwelling, you could look up and see the crown post roof, which would have been thatched. There was a central hearth and possibly a louvre in the thatch to allow the smoke to escape. It was not such a bad thing to have smoke lingering in the thatch, as this would deter rats, mice and unwanted infestations. Animals would also sleep inside; apart from the smell, they also gave off much needed heat. Herbs, spices, flowers and anything else with a nice odour was placed on the ground. Humans slept on sleeping platforms, raised off the cold floor. In the scullery very old and new timbers in the ceiling could be seen; this is where one of the sleeping platforms was, and it was accessed

by a ladder from the ground. Two windows in the outside wall had been bricked up; during the seventeenth century a Window Tax was introduced by the government. We think that they were bricked up to avoid paying this tax. This is where the saying 'Daylight Robbery' comes from. Some of the utensils displayed belonged to the Clipson family, other items were kindly donated or loaned to us.

We met some very interesting people over the years, including university students, doctors, professors and people from all walks of life. We had visitors who knew far more about this type of building than we did; they were always very helpful and passed on a lot of useful information.

We really enjoyed our time spent at 51 Fleetgate; it was very rewarding in many ways. We have so many stories we could tell about the building and the visitors, but we do not have the room in this short article to include them.

There are many things we have not mentioned in this write up; we have only touched on the very important history of this building mentioning its uses over the years, its occupants etc.

When our children were a lot younger (about 45 years ago) they would always ask if we could go for a ride to Barton. They loved to have a picnic in the park, have a paddle or a swim in the open air pool and a walk around Barton.



You are very lucky to have so many interesting historic buildings and places of interest to visit in Barton. No, it's not luck; it's the hard work of the Barton Civic Society committee and members over the past fifty years!

Congratulations on reaching this milestone!  
Best wishes

**Val and Eddie.**

The restoration of the Beck is the most ambitious and long-awaited project undertaken by the Civic Society. At the Society's first meeting on 3rd September 1969, the main business was 'How can Barton make the most of the Beck and Beck Hill?'

There was much enthusiasm to restore this important area, but proposals were always hampered by the unpredictability and general lack of water from the artesian springs which feed the Beck, together with the problem of retaining water in the Pond throughout the year.

In 1973, following a general lack of water, the bottom of the Beck was reshaped with top-soil, seeded with grass, and some trees planted. However, by the late 1970s, the springs began to flow, and in 1980 they produced vast volumes of water, causing serious flooding of the area. This led to the installation of extensive drainage and landscaping in the Beck to create more of a park than a pond. The area became neglected and overgrown – obstructing the view of St. Mary's from Beck Hill.

The Civic Society carried out periodic tidying of the Beck, but the whole area was becoming increasingly unsightly, prompting the Society's Honorary Secretary, in 2003, to prepare a comprehensive report on how to 'sort out' the Beck. But, yet again, the unpredictable supply of water and the difficulty with its retention led to the proposals being shelved.

2010 saw the formation of 'The Friends of Beck Hill' who rekindled interest in the Beck restoration; the following year this was transferred to the newly-formed Civic Society's Beck Sub-Committee. With the assistance of Consulting Engineers, the sub-committee produced a scheme for restoring the Beck to its historic appearance. This involved:

- the clearance of most of the planting within the Beck
- the removal of much of the 1980s soil in-fill
- further excavation of the centre of the Beck and lining with clay to form a permanent pond
- raising of the general water level and its

control by means of a weir at the head of the outfall culvert

- restoration of the surrounding walls
- enhancement of the seating area, with most of the seats facing the Beck
- opening up the classic view of St. Mary's Church and its reflection in the Beck

A public presentation/consultation in St. Mary's Church during September 2014 generated great enthusiasm and overwhelming support for the Project; an attractive display, which drew extraordinary interest, was then mounted in Providence House for a further 5 months!

Work in the Beck commenced in early 2015, with the clearance of unwanted trees and vegetation. In September and October huge quantities of in-fill were removed down to the original 'floor' level, and then the central area was further excavated and lined with clay-rich soil to form a permanent pond which began filling with rain water. Work on the seating area and boundary walls began in December; the seating area was enlarged and repaved and opened to the public in February 2016; the substantial and attractive seats have drawn many sponsors! This same month the laurels on the Beck Hill verge were removed, thus opening up the view of the Beck and St. Mary's. By March the Beck was full of water from the artesian springs, and we saw once again the reflection of St. Mary's! All work to the boundary walls was eventually completed, and an Information Board – matching others in the town – erected near the seating area. The Beck Restoration has earned much praise, not only from residents and visitors, but from the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) which presented the Civic Society with an 'Environment Award'. The Project was also short-listed by Civic Voice for a National Award in 2017!

The Beck sub-committee held its last meeting in April 2018.

The Society is most grateful to WRE (Waste Recycling Environmental), to North Lincolnshire Council, and to the various



sponsors who have funded the Project! Sincere thanks also to the members of the Beck sub-committee for their dedication and sheer hard work, especially to Tim Allen, former Head of North Lincolnshire Council's Environment Team and to those loyal volunteers who continue to ensure that what has been achieved is maintained!

A longer article on the Beck Restoration Project is contained in the Society's 2016 Newsletter and an even fuller version appears on the Society's Website.

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## **Barton's Green spaces – Improvements over the past 50 years**

*Andrew Robinson*

Fifty years ago, the largest public open green space in Barton was Baysgarth Park. The history of the park has been very well documented previously by Richard Clarke, but recent years have seen a considerable number of improvements. The southern part of the park, beyond the Leisure Centre, was incorporated into the park in the early 1970s, to give the park an overall area of 12.5 hectares. This part of the park remains very much as it was in those days, comprising mainly grass and mature trees. In 2016, however, on the initiative of Laurie Robinson, the Redoubt Copse was planted on the southern boundary to commemorate the 17 Barton soldiers who fell at the battle of Hohenzollern Redoubt. The copse was initially planted with 17 young oak trees, and has been subsequently embellished with a host of golden daffodils, planted as part of Barton Town Council's annual bulb planting programme. Also in 2016, the group known as the Friends of Baysgarth Park was formed, with the intention of improving the park and to achieve Green Flag status, which was awarded just two years later. Improvements instigated by the group have included a 2m wide perimeter path around the northern part of the park, improvements to signage and the play area, and also the creation of the Chad Varah Memorial Garden on the site of the old putting green. The group continues to thrive and to raise funds and it is hoped that further improvements to the park will continue to be implemented.

Other public open spaces existing in 1969 were the recreation grounds / playing fields on Dam Road, Tofts Road, and Butts Road. The first two have changed little over the past half century but the Butts Road Park is a relatively unknown gem tucked away from general view, and has been improved by additional planting over the years.

Perhaps the biggest addition to Barton's green spaces has been the creation of the Water's Edge Country Park, which was gradually established by North Lincs. Council on the site of the old fertiliser factory after its closure in the early 1990s. This Country Park, extending to 35 hectares, is home to a wide variety of wildlife and is very popular with the public for informal recreation, linking as it does with the Humber bank. The combination of a saline habitat on the edge of the Humber and freshwater habitats on the inside of the clay bank, helps to attract a wide variety of birdlife to the site. Considerable belts of trees have been established on what was previously a barren, polluted industrial site, as well as natural grassland.

The Clay Pits to the west of Barton Haven were also an important wildlife habitat 50 years ago, but their value was not widely promoted at that time. Since then, however, the Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation has gradually extended its land holding in this area to its present extent of 59 hectares, including the original information centre at Far Ings, and subsequently the acquisition of the former Outdoor Pursuits Centre as a visitor centre. The Clay Pits attract visitors from a wide area, and the area is now managed more intensively than in the past. The area is popular for informal walking as well as with the more serious bird watchers. It was increased in extent during the reclamation of Water's Edge, as clay and soil were excavated from fields south of Far Ings Road to form new areas of grassland at Water's Edge, creating several new lakes at Far Ings.

The Beck was a topic for discussion at the first meeting of the Civic Society in 1969, with various suggestions being put forward for its improvement. A scheme was implemented by

Glanford Borough Council in the early 1990s but the emphasis on these works was flood prevention, and the resulting appearance of the area was disappointing. After many years of discussion the Civic Society, working in conjunction with North Lincs Council, eventually came up with a scheme to retain water in the Beck all year round, and this was finally implemented in 2015. The scheme received an award from the CPRE and has proved very popular with residents and visitors.

A large buffer zone of greenspace was introduced after the construction of the Humber Bridge approach road, between the A15 and Forkdale. This has benefitted from woodland planting at various times, with the main area known as Millennium Wood being planted by schoolchildren of the town almost twenty years ago, now approaching maturity. The northern part of the site, known as Top Field, was maintained as a mown grass field until it was unfortunately sold for a supermarket development in recent years, resulting in the removal of many mature trees.

Another open space resulting from the construction of the Humber Bridge is the viewing area at the north end of Waterside Road. Whilst this is essentially a car park for visitors to the area, there are also considerable areas of planting and grass, also linking in to the old clay pits to the west. Whilst this area had fallen into decline over the past few years, a recent initiative by Barton Town Council has resulted in some improvements to its appearance. This area, 10 acres in extent, is now managed by North Lincs. Council as a part of the Water's Edge Country Park.

The Town Council has for many years carried out bulb planting in a wide range of locations in the town, both urban and rural, and this has led to some very colourful displays in spring each year. The bulbs are paid for by the Council but planting is carried out by volunteers in October each year. The Civic Society has also contributed to landscaping around the town by planting over fifty trees in various locations over the past thirty years, again by voluntary labour.

The construction of new housing estates over the past fifty years has led to the creation of many new areas of green space, which are usually a

requirement of planning permission for a new development. The most significant of these is the woodland created as part of the Chartdale Homes development east of the Humber Bridge approach road, providing a woodland walkway between Ferriby Road and Westfield Road. This theme is also continued on the Keigar development between West Acridge and Dam road, as well as the Redrow development off Tofts Road. There are also several smaller areas of greenspace within these larger housing developments, with some containing children's play areas.

The Civic Society has been active in preserving rights of way around the town, and there is a good network of rural pathways giving countryside access to most parts of the parish. In the 1990s the track known as Sandy Lane, east of New Quarry between Westfield Road and Far Ings Road was threatened with closure, but a public enquiry ensured its retention as a right of way. Currently, the Society is trying to make sure that all established public rights of way within the parish boundaries are included on the North Lincs. Council Definitive Map.

Whilst this article is essentially concerned with green spaces accessible to the public, mention must be made of the extensive grounds surrounding the Wren Kitchen's factory off Falkland Way. This factory was originally built by the American firm of Kimberley Clark in the 1990s, embracing the philosophy of setting the factory within a much larger area of ground, helping both to screen the factory from public roads as well as promoting a better working environment for the employees. Several thousand young trees were planted as part of the development, and belts of these along the A1077 Barrow Road are now approaching semi-maturity. Unfortunately, however, the owner of Wren has seen the considerable potential for development within the grounds and at the time of writing, a considerable area of trees has been cleared in readiness for the new access road off Barrow Road which received planning permission a few years ago.

Modern planning guidelines encourage the incorporation of green spaces within all new developments, so hopefully the town can benefit from even more areas of greenspace in the future.



*The restored Beck (photo: John French)*



*Stone bridge over The Haven - 1985 (photo: John French)*



*Providence Chapel - looking towards the pulpit - 1980s (photo: John French)*



*Fleetgate - telephoto view 1981 (photo: John French)*



*New residences on the High Street - St.Peter's Court, January 1981 (photo John: French)*



*Barton from the air c1960 (Grimsby Telegraph)*



*Barton lakes (Michael Lee)*