



Grantham
Civic Society

www.granthamcivicsociety.co.uk



masthead artwork by Georgina Green

Newsletter

Autumn 2020

Grantham Civic Society aims to:

Preserve the town's remaining fine or historically interesting buildings

Monitor the upkeep of green spaces

Keep a watching brief on new developments



Further disruption to programme of events

Sadly the on-going covid restrictions have meant that we will have to make changes to our Heritage Weekend plans on the 12th and 13th September. We shall help at St Wulframs Church on Saturday from 10am until 4pm running a book stall but will not be able to open The Manthorpe Road Burial ground or Grantham House/Gardens on the Sunday or the Old King's School on Saturday. Several of us have been running these events for more than 20 years. Let us hope that we can start again next year.

In the meantime you will find a fabulous visual guide to the old Burial Ground on our website, which you can open from the link on the home page.

The proposed Lincolnshire Film Archive viewing, proposed for 14th September, has been cancelled by Grantham Local History Society and we have also decided to call off the proposed visit to Boothby Pagnell and Corby Glen on 8th October. We are still trying to make arrangements for a speaker on 12th November, although this may have to be done on-line by a platform such as Zoom. Arrangements for the proposed Christmas Meal on 10th December are still uncertain at present as the venue cannot be sure at this stage what restrictions might be in place by then.

Please keep an eye on our website for any developments on forthcoming events

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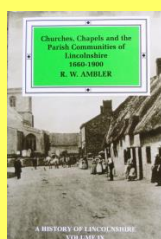
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New SKDC conservation Officer

Ian Wright, for many years the SKDC Conservation Officer, has now retired and his successor, Tricia Craggs, has been in touch to introduce herself. We have become very concerned about the parlous state of Bow House which adjoins the Manthorpe Road burial ground. The house has been empty for many years and is in a dreadful state of repair with extensive, thick ivy growing into the roof coverings and over the walls at the rear. It is a listed Georgian building and it is so sad to witness the present derelict state of this, the once much-loved home of Bob Jeffreys and Philip Lank. We have asked Tricia Craggs if there is any enforcement action the council can take.

Via a Land Registry search we have given her the details of the registered owners.

Courtney Finn



St Anne's Church Grantham

The main church was built in 1906-09 to replace a "tin tabernacle" in Cecil Street to serve the expanding area of town known as "New Somerby" or "Harrowby Within", as the old ordnance maps have it. The foundation stone was laid in 1906, on land given by Lord Harrowby, by the much revered Bishop Edward King, who later returned to consecrate the completed nave and aisles in 1909.

The church is built of red brick and stone with a steeply sloping slate roof covering nave and aisles, with an off-centre bell-cote. The windows are "Edwardian Gothic" in the "perpendicular" style.

The church remained incomplete with a temporary east wall until the late 1950's when, during the ministry of the Rev. Timothy Kidd, a campaign was launched to modernise and complete the church. In 1958 a new boiler house was built, followed in 1959 by vestries and in 1963, the new chancel and sanctuary were consecrated and a new organ (the third in the church's life) was installed.

The new east window was made by Mr Harvey of York. It glows with light like a huge candle flame. The Sanctuary itself was designed by our own Bill Read of Messrs Bond and Read in Grantham. The exterior of the church is undistinguished architecturally, but inside it is spacious and well-kept and the lovely modern sanctuary sheds its radiance over all.

A modern vicarage has also been built behind the church to replace the secluded "Highfields", on the steep slope of Cold Harbour Lane. This was the residence of the first incumbent, the Rev. E. Millard, who was vicar for almost forty years and who had acquired the reputation of a "local character".

Actually, for several years, the vicar of St Anne's was legally a curate of the parish church of Old Somerby, even though the area was incorporated into the Borough of Grantham in 1879, together with Spitalgate and Little Gonerby.

Courtney Finn. *Text taken from Grantham Civic Trust Bulletins in 1978-9*



RiverCare report ~ August 2020

Grantham RiverCare resumed for post lockdown clean-ups in August, having been away for 189 days. Not able to work in our usual open format for 189 days due to COVID-19 restrictions, Grantham RiverCare returned for some much-needed post lockdown clean-up. To ensure our work is COVID secure, we've had to work in groups of six. Over the three weekends, a total of twenty-one volunteers (#riverheroes) gave 72 hours of their time to get our adopted stretch of the River Witham, from Bridge End Road to Harrowby Weir, back to looking loved again. However, absence makes the litter piles higher and, in the three trips since July, we have collected around 400kg of assorted items which include:-

Shopping trolleys (5), Bikes (8), radio cassette player, road signs, footballs (numerous), road work barriers, an illegal homemade crayfish trap (EA notified), live bank cards (Police contacted), a bag of shoes! personal documents of HMP Lincoln releasee (Police contacted), a cash box - empty! car seat, sink, various items of furniture, numerous traffic cones, a selection of pans.

And that's not including the 106 glass bottles, 76 plastic bottles and 304 cans. The cans are donated to the Helipads for Hospitals campaign.

We have now reached 96 group clean-ups over the last fifteen years. Fingers crossed we can hit 100 by our 16th anniversary in October.

In addition to cleaning the river, this time we moved into nearby streets, cleaning pavements, gutters and blocked drains, which could all end up as urban flood risks as well as causing litter to flow into the river via street drains.

COVID-19 is having an impact on the riverside, creating a 'litter pandemic'. We have seen the careless disposal of single use face masks, wipes and plastic gloves. Please don't drop your PPE litter!

An extra thank you to Gary and his pair of river look outs that regularly filled up Gary's Canadian Canoe (the floating skip!) and to SKDC Street Scene for their support in supplying bags and collecting the fruits of our litter labours.

RiverCare BeachCare (East Anglia) is a Keep Britain Tidy project funded in our region by Anglian Water. Currently supporting 50 local community groups to litter pick, undertake citizen science projects and act as guardians of their local watercourse or beach.



David Martin and Ian Simmons
Co-leaders Grantham Rivercare

Find us on facebook at;
[fb.me/rivercaregrantham](https://www.facebook.com/rivercaregrantham)

<http://www.rivercare.org.uk>
(an Anglian Water/Keep Britain Tidy Project)



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Grantham Civic Society

www.granthamcivicsociety.co.uk

Membership

Membership forms can be obtained from Ruth Crook or downloaded from the website. Membership currently costs **£12 per annum** (£22 for two people at the same address)

Stone steps at Gonerby Hill Foot

We are in the early stages of having an information signboard made adjacent to the stone steps on Gonerby Hill Foot, which will tell of the history of the area. Have you ever wondered why the stone steps are there? They were placed there in 1708 by Edmund Boulter who was an MP. He regularly travelled on horseback between Wimpole Hall and Gawthorpe Hall near Leeds when he was in his 70s and rather corpulent. He had stone steps placed at regular intervals along his route between the two places, to help him to mount and dismount his horse, each one being marked EB 1708. There are only two known left in existence, one on Gonerby Hill Foot and one in Sibson, Cambridgeshire.



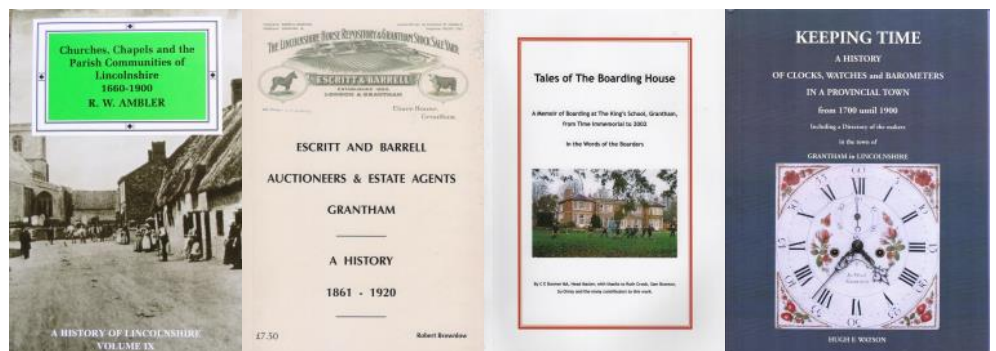
Book Shop

Our

Civic Society bookshop has recently been selling a number of items relating to the History of Lincolnshire, reaching customers as far away as Australia and New Zealand! One book proving popular with family historians is Rod Ambler's '*Churches, Chapels and Parish Communities in Lincolnshire 1660-1900*' which is just £8. Of specific Grantham interest your manager's tips are Bob Brownlow's *history of Escritt and Barrell auctioneers* at £7 and Charles Dormer's booklet about the *King's School Boarding House* at just £4.

A more heavyweight item, for anyone fortunate in having a Grantham-made clock or watch, is *Keeping Time* by the late Hugh Watson. This really does give an insight into Georgian and Victorian Grantham and is priced at a bargain £18 (£34.95 rrp). All available for collection from me or by post (UK addresses) for an additional £2. Please support our bookstall on Saturday 12 September at St Wulfram's Church.

John Manterfield



Your committee

Not to be beaten by the present restrictions your committee have continued to meet regularly on-line on *Zoom*. Here we are, all suitably socially distanced, putting the world to rights!

