



Grantham  
Civic Society

[www.granthamcivicsociety.co.uk](http://www.granthamcivicsociety.co.uk)

masthead artwork by Georgina Green

# Newsletter

# September 2022

## 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



## Diary dates (booking details on page 4)

Please put the following dates in your diaries for future events.

**Thursday 27 October**

**Visit to Lichfield**

Hosted by Lichfield Civic Society

**Thursday 10 November**

**Talk by Robert Brownlow**

*Escritt & Barrell, Auctioneers: Their role in the history of Grantham*

**2.30pm Museum**

**Thursday 15th December**

**Christmas meal at Belton Park Golf Club**

12 noon for 12.30 start

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## From the Chairman

On 18 June we erected a Blue plaque to commemorate the long history of the Angel and Royal hotel. Our member and Town Mayor Graham Jeal unveiled the plaque and we had some visitors present from our twin town St Augustin in Germany as it was a covid delayed celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twining being established.

In July I attended a public meeting to protest at the ghastly 5G mast planned for Lindisfarne Way. The council received nearly 200 letters of protest and the planning application has been rejected.

On 16 July we visited the delightful town of Barton upon Humber. The coach took the strain and we were royally welcomed by the Mayor for coffee and given a tour of the town by Barton Civic Society, with a chance later to visit the Ropeworks. We visited the Wilderspin museum. The National School movement was founded by Samuel Wilderspin in Westminster in 1819.

Barton Society had visited Grantham in 2010 and this was a chance for them to show us their treasures and their history. We discovered the TOC H founder Rev Tubby Clayton was a local man.

On 14 August we held our summer social at Robert Holland's Ropsley Heath Light Railway. Seventy members and friends came along and enjoyed the cream teas and the ride on the two trains. Robert gave us an introductory talk to explain it all. There was plenty of shade and it was a splendid afternoon.

Heritage Weekend was somewhat curtailed due to the unforeseen programme of events around the death of the Queen. The events on Saturday 10th September were all cancelled but, on Sunday 11th, we opened the Old Burial Ground on Manthorpe Road, where we had about 200 visitors, and then the gardens of Grantham House where we had 300 visitors. The weather stayed fine and dry for us.

The whole of the Georgian Heritage weekend at Folkingham on 17/18 September was unfortunately cancelled, due to the proximity to the Queen's funeral.

**Courtney Finn**

# Barton upon Humber visit

Our visit on Sat 16 July to Barton upon Humber was a great success. After our welcome in the morning we were able to visit their historic museum in the old school building used by Samuel Wilderspin in 1845 to become one of the first of 2000 National schools which he inspired across the country. National schools revolutionised primary education in a "levelling up process" the like of which has never been seen since. We were treated to "mock lessons" in the school which brought to vivid life what a school day in that period would have been like. There was as much emphasis on outside learning, in nature, as in formal classroom learning. In the Ropery Museum we learned a lot about the history of rope making in the area, from early days up to the production of steel hawsers in the 20th century. There was also an interesting gallery and shop featuring modern craft work.

We also learnt that Isaac Pitman, the inventor of shorthand, lived in Barton.

Courtney Finn



Above ~ the Wilderspin school

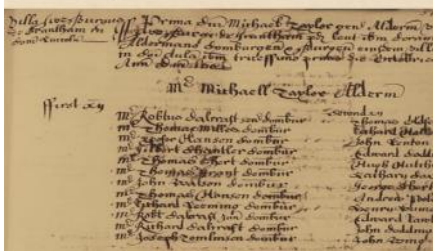
Far right The Ropery museum and near right the Ropery craft gallery.



## Book stall



**Borough Government in Restoration Grantham**  
The Hall Book of Grantham, 1662-1704  
John B. Manterfield



My new book 'Borough Government in Restoration Grantham- The Hall Book of Grantham 1662-1704' has just been published by the Lincoln Record Society. I presented a copy to Grantham Mayor Cllr Graham Jeal on Wednesday 24 August in the Mayor's Parlour at the Guildhall.

The Hall Book was the minute book of the Borough Corporation of Grantham and is now in Lincolnshire Archives in Lincoln. The work of transcribing the book was undertaken by me together with a team of over half a dozen volunteers who worked on one or more years of the 42 years covered in this printed volume. Each year was carefully checked and double checked by team members. For those of you who may be interested, copies may be purchased direct from me at the price of £40

I will also be presenting a copy to Grantham Public Library.

John Manterfield

## Summer of 2022

Now that cooler weather is finally with us it is hard to remember just how hot things were this summer, as the attached pictures of fire damage in Queen Elizabeth Park demonstrate.





## Summer Social ~ Robert Holland's garden and railway

On 14 August we held our summer social at Robert Holland's Ropsley Light Railway in the grounds of his home at Ropsley Heath.

In his talk Robert clarified, among other things, the intricacies of different track gauges (widths) around the world and explained that his locomotives were half scale replicas of trains originally built for a Welsh narrow gauge line. Robert very kindly kept the trains running well into the afternoon, as a number of us had decided to have our cream tea before going on the train!

The alpacas live on the farm but they seemed to find the hot weather a bit much. They were laying flat on the ground when we arrived. However, much to everybody's relief, they all stood up later and entertained the visitors. Robert was heartily thanked for his hospitality in setting up the visit.



## Heritage weekend

Although the Heritage Weekend was somewhat curtailed, and the events on Saturday 10th September were all cancelled, nevertheless, on Sunday 11th, we opened the Old Burial Ground on Manthorpe Road, where we had about 200 visitors and then the gardens of Grantham House where we had 300 visitors. We sold a number of books over the day to help with our funds.





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## Grantham Civic Society

[www.granthamcivicsociety.co.uk](http://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)

## Events for the coming months.....

### Lichfield trip

**Thursday 27 October Coach trip to Lichfield**  
**Hosted by Lichfield Civic Society (see details sheet attached)**  
Coach departs Meres Centre car park 9.00 am **PROMPT** and leaves Lichfield at 4.00pm to return  
**Price £18 per person. Names to Graham Cook and payment to Ruth Crook by Friday 21 October please**

### Autumn lecture

**Thursday 10 November**  
**Talk by Robert Brownlow**  
***Escritt & Barrell, Auctioneers: Their role in the history of Grantham***  
**2.30pm Museum free entry**

Copies of Bob's book on Escritt and Barrell will be available for £7 as well as his humorous 'A Lincolnshire Auctioneer's Tale' also £7 and also other new and used books in good time for Christmas stocking fillers. John Manterfield's book 'Borough Government in Restoration Grantham' will also be available, at £25.

### Christmas meal

**This year's Christmas meal is planned to be at Belton Park Golf Club**  
**On Thursday 15th December at 12 noon for a 12.30 start**  
**Price £19 per person for two courses, £24 for three courses. See attached menu sheet.**  
**Names to Graham Cook and payment to Ruth Crook by Monday 5 December please**

## The Boulter stone ~ Gonerby Hill Foot

I have recently been researching the history of the Boulter mounting block on Gonerby Hill Foot for an article that I have written for publication.

Edmund Boulter, who was a generous benefactor, paid for several stone mounting blocks 'to assist the less agile riders of Lincolnshire'. These steps were on roads in and around Stamford and were placed there between 1703 and 1708, each with the initials E B and the date.

There are now only five complete mounting blocks extant, another in pieces and evidence of two more. The complete ones are at Stilton, Water Newton, Castor, Stamford and Gonerby Hill Foot. The stone that is in pieces is at The Fox Inn, South Witham. The evidence of the other two are Spittlegate level and possibly Toll Bar, Gonerby Moor.

The committee have recently paid contractors to clear the area around the Gonerby Hill Foot mounting block and lay gravel. Bollards were then placed at each corner to prevent the stone becoming more damaged. We also discussed the possibility of placing another display board adjacent to the stone, explaining not only the history of the Boulter stones, but also the history of the area.

We also recently reapplied to have the stone Grade II listed, but because its surrounding area seemed insignificant and there was nothing to show the area's history, the application was declined. Perhaps we can reapply when all the proposed additions have been completed.

### Ruth Crook

