

**BOURNE
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY**

**Jan/February 2011
Supplement**

Bourne Cemetery Chapel

Born 1854



Died not yet!

BOURNE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Jan/February 2011 Supplement

Introduction

Welcome to the January Supplement, we thought that a resume of the events of the past, almost 3 years, would be an interesting read for members, and a useful perspective on our activities, we hope you find it interesting.

Timeline

- 1854** - Chapel designed by Stamford architect Edward Browning and construction begins
- 1855** - Opened in May and operated by Bourne Burial Board
- 1899** - Ownership of the chapel transferred to Bourne Urban District Council
- 1974** - Ownership of the chapel transferred to Bourne Town Council
- 2004** - Chapel deconsecrated at Bourne Town Council request to allow for planned demolition
- 2005** - Listing applied for by Rex Needle
- 2007** - Bourne Town Council voted by majority to demolish the building
- 2007** - English Heritage approve listing of the chapel at Grade II
- 2007** - Bourne Town Council commission and receive structural survey of the building by Ross Consulting (UK) Ltd which recommends immediate action on several points
- 2008** - Bourne Preservation Society formed and lodged proposal to save the chapel with Bourne Town Council
- 2008** - Business plan lodged with Bourne Town Council outlining plan to save chapel
- 2008** - Chapel inspected by Ed Morton, respected director of The Morton Partnership, London based Historic Building Specialists, for the Preservation Society
- 2008** - Bourne Town Council offers the Society a 99 year lease on the chapel
- 2008** - Town Council offer funds but will not release them (£5,000)
- 2009** - Bourne Preservation Society arrange presentation to councillors by Heritage Lincolnshire and the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) at Heritage Lincolnshire's Heckington offices
- 2009** - Bourne Preservation Society becomes members of Lincolnshire Community Volunteer Services, who provide assistance to us
- 2009** - Bourne Town Council give written confirmation of their offer to pass ownership of the chapel to Bourne Preservation Society subject to successful outcome of the Options Appraisal
- 2010** - Bourne Preservation Trust is formed as a Private Limited Company Limited by Guarantee
- 2010** - Bourne Town Council advise of a covenant on the building held by Lincoln Diocese, and apply for this restriction to be lifted
- 2010** - Bourne Town Council approve funding of up to £5,000 or 25% of the AHF Options Appraisal Grant cost
- 2010** - Bourne Preservation Society members carry out 150+ hours of voluntary work clearing around the chapel, with approval from Bourne Town Council.
- 2010** - Bourne Preservation Trust becomes full members of The UK Association of Preservation Trusts
- 2010** - Architect inspection carried out and report supplied by Soul Architects of Worksop to Bourne Preservation Trust, which we then submitted to BTC
- 2010** - Legal work on the full lease commenced by Langleys Solicitors, Lincoln for Bourne Preservation Trust
- 2011** - Lincoln Diocese advise Bourne Town Council of their decision to allow services at the chapel, however this is breaking news at February 2011, and no meeting has yet been held to discuss the response from the Diocese or any response to that decision
- 2011** - Bourne Town Council have undertaken no recommended repair action from any of the surveys produced, other than to patch the roof tiles. The building is confirmed by our architect to be in need of immediate minor work, and is also not being maintained in a watertight condition.

BOURNE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Jan/February 2011 Supplement

**Over 150 hours of voluntary work carried out
by Society members throughout the Summer of 2010**

Work by volunteers from the Society on the South wall, revealed an old pre-war toilet block hidden behind shrubbery and with a tree growing across, and blocking its entrance



A greenhouse, an old office building, and shrubbery removed, and the West wall looks much nicer



Currently, Bourne Preservation Trust are poised to commence the Architectural Heritage Fund Options Appraisal, this is the procedure agreed with Bourne Town Council, and this Appraisal, an Architectural Heritage Fund procedure, will be carried out by independent professionals. When our charity status is confirmed, and that is currently in progress, that process will start with requests for project bids from suitable companies. Drafting of the lease is in progress, again by an independent solicitor who has never seen the chapel, and only one issue that Bourne Town Council have been made aware of would prevent that coming to fruition, so we are hopeful that there are no issues of significance to be dealt with there. The issue of the covenant held on the building by the Lincoln Diocese is the most major hurdle to be overcome for us, as too many restrictions prevent us from seeking the appropriate grant funding, again, Bourne Town Council are aware of this.

The report produced by our architect, again independent, he had never seen the chapel until he visited us, confirms what we have said all along.

We must get the project moving, as the chapel continues to be neglected, and will continue to be affected by the lack of action by Bourne Town Council. Towards the end of last year we asked the council for inspection and maintenance procedures they hold for the chapel, none existed. We asked who was responsible for it's inspection, again no-one in particular and no laid down procedure. We asked for a copy of details of historic maintenance done on the building, again none exists, other than in occasional minutes of meetings.

It is no wonder that the building has deteriorated as it has been allowed to do. As an example, close inspection shows ivy growing through some of the ashlar blocks making up the buildings plinth, this is not minor ivy growth, in places it has dislodged these huge blocks, that is major neglect.

Our cemetery chapel, Victorian Gothic in design, is, we believe, the oldest listed chapel of it's design in England.

Bourne Preservation Society, through it's sister company Bourne Preservation Trust, will do everything possible to ensure the building survives and is restored for future use.

Please continue to support the Society, in doing so you are supporting this project, and others, which will secure the historic buildings in Bourne, if we don't, who will?