

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

To all our Society members, families and friends, this comes with a hope that the year will be good for you. We look forward to your support in the coming year as we enlarge our activities, and look out for more, interesting, member nights throughout 2009.

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### **Chairman's comment.**

Progress on the chapel project has again received a setback with Bourne Town Council rejecting again our business plan, despite a face to face meeting at which we agreed amendments, now they say that it is not enough. It is hard to accept the Council's public statement relating to handing over the chapel to us, as it is obvious that it is tactics of delay after delay, with added requirements constantly .. This coming from a group of people who voted to demolish it!



The cemetery chapel in Winter

### **January members evening**

Brenda and Jim Jones gave an excellent presentation on the Water Wheel project at Baldock's Mill, at Wake House on 26th January, attended by members and non-members. Many questions were asked by an inquisitive audience following a very interesting slide show.

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### **Charity Commission**

Our request to become a registered charity was lodged in early December and we have now had some feedback on that request, we are currently communicating with them in order to progress our application. Look out for more details on that soon

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### **Publicity Stands**

We are looking for publicity stands for use at events. Has anyone access to these items where they may be unused and available? Any type of stand material is welcome.

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### **Mural/Banner**

We would like to have a mural or banner which we could use as a backdrop for stalls and events. We envisage something about ten feet long and two feet wide, containing a mural representing our town. Anyone artistic?, or have access to such skills?

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### **Dates for your diary**

**20th February** - Committee meeting - Baldock's Mill - 7.30pm

**16th March** - Committee meeting - Baldock's Mill - 7.30pm

**24th March** - Annual General Meeting - Baldock's Mill - 7.30pm

### **Market Stall**

Look out for us on Bourne market on Thursday, 26th February, come along and say hello.

# BOURNE PRESERVATION SOCIETY - Jan/Feb 2009 Newsletter

An amusing article submitted this month for which we thank Cynthia, reprinted in full .. Enjoy it (and maybe come along and see for yourself!)

## Memoirs of a Bourne Town Council meeting - January 2009

A freezing bitterly cold night brought me, and two other hardy BPS souls to the Bourne Corn Exchange for the 'Open Forum' part of a Town Council meeting, anxious to know what our Council is doing for Bourne and what they could tell of the saga of the Cemetery Chapel.

Passing the Town Mayor and Deputy having a little 'tete a tete?' in an out-room downstairs, we climbed the stairs and entered 'the Chamber' amidst the buzz of conversation of the already seated Councillors. Seven citizens of Bourne, including ourselves, were present, all waiting expectantly. A few moments passed and we were invited to be upstanding for the entrance of the Mayor, immediately followed by a spoken prayer for both guidance and blessing of Bourne and its Councillors, Ensuing events proved this prayer to be promptly forgotten.

The first question (pre-arranged to speak) was asked, a young man apparently had climbed onto a house roof on Christmas Eve and was unable to get down. The Fire Service, we were informed, were called, but were unable to reach him, so more equipment was sent in from Boston, "Why couldn't this equipment be kept more local? .. matter referred to Lincolnshire County Council. Strangely no Councillor queried what the young man was doing anyway, the cost to the Emergency Services (public purse) and to the potential danger to other lives, should this equipment have been required elsewhere for a genuine emergency. Poor little chap ... he had to stay on the roof for a whole one hour and 20 minutes!

The second question referred to the renovation and refurbishment of the Town Hall .. "was anything known yet?". "No" was the swift and decisive reply.

The microphone crackled into life (as in a World War 2 operations room) as it was passed to various Councillors with great aplomb. The rustling of sheets of paper while Councillors struggled to find the appropriate sheet sounded like the sound of rushing waters, and the air was tense as all the bent heads concentrated, reminiscent of examination time at school.

A Councillor was asked to seek approval for minutes of another meeting, and promptly began to read them only to be told not to. Another Councillor lumbered to his feet proclaiming that he had chaired the meeting anyway so he should be the one to seek approval of the minutes. The bureaucracy of the Council, with the dotting of the 'i's' and crossing of the 't's', the odd word here and there astounds me, all too PC!

The continual scraping of the chairs as each Councillor rises to their feet for their 'moment of glory' is both distracting and ear shattering to a delicate ear!

Eventually, our 'subject' arrives, and is, as expected, thrown out again .. or perhaps blocked? The Councillors had 'not yet received their copy', the Clerk had lost the copies but five sec-

seconds later had found them and handed them out. Was she 'nobbled' I asked myself, or, in better class language 'prevailed upon ...!' The Mayor then, in fairness, asked "if anyone needed five minutes (a legal document!) to read and study the paper before voting on it?" There were no cries of 'might this be unfair' or 'might this be breaking any understandings'? Is all this legal, and within Council rules, I ask myself, personally, I have always found the Town Clerk to have been extremely efficient.

That was it! My patience was exhausted, my nerves in tatters, and I had seen and heard enough, we all walked out. I secretly hoped the scraping of my chair compared favourably with all the previous scrapings. I headed for home and the safety of a long, hot soak in the bath (just in case you are interested!) in order to decontaminate myself of any germs brought from the meeting! And to peruse both the meaning and failure of democracy .. or perhaps did I secretly really rather enjoy 40 minutes of free light entertainment, I wonder!

E & OE

Cynthia Graham  
28 January 2009

## Chapel History

If you have, or know of, pictures, photographs, or information on the cemetery chapel, we would be interested to hear from you .

## Newsletter

We are always looking for ideas and opinions, this is your newsletter, please submit any items which you think others may be interested in, especially old pictures, or articles about Bourne, which we will feature in the newsletter, and on the website, remember to visit the site regularly, and please provide feedback on its' content to us ..  
[www.bournepreservationsociety.co.uk](http://www.bournepreservationsociety.co.uk)

## New Membership Year

Our membership year starts on 1st April, for next year, our member nights will become monthly, always held on the third Monday of every month (except December) and always at the Baxter Room at Wake House on North Street, at 7.30pm. With your membership renewal you will receive an events reminder card, detailing the years' events. First one is on 20th April, and will be 'A Civil Servant in the 50's' by Mr Jock Wallace, which, I'm sure, will be very entertaining.