

John Worsdall **1842-1923**

Candidates for both local and national government can be seen out and about in Bourne at election time pressing the flesh and trying to drum up the votes needed to put them into office. The hustings today for political candidates is highly organised and mainly financed by their parties but it was not always so and one man in the early years of the last century demonstrated that an ordinary chap with no mighty machine behind him can still make his mark. He was John Worsdall, a retired farmer, unfettered by learning and motivated by an innate common sense, who earned himself a reputation as Father of the Bourne Urban District Council after winning a remarkable victory in the 1922 elections at the age of 80.

Old John, as he was known in later life, was born in 1842 and had his initial experience of local government when he served the first parish council that existed for only five years from 1894 until 1899 when, because of the size and population of the area covered, the town was granted urban status in May 1898 and Bourne Urban District Council was formed the following year. He had been a member of the original authority, being elected third out of 23 candidates, later serving with the Board of Guardians which administered the workhouse where he was active in improving conditions for older inmates, agitating to get the men over 60 a weekly ounce of tobacco and in providing married couples over 65 double bedrooms with modern facilities. He gave up public life when he was 70 but ten years later, friends persuaded him to stand for election to BUDC although there were many who did not take his candidature seriously. In the event, there were thirteen nominations for the five available vacancies and Old John, the respectful name he had by then acquired, polled 499 votes, putting him in third place and winning him a seat on the council.

An important although unusual feature of John's campaign was his manifesto. The printing of election literature in those days was an expensive business and so he had the bright idea of producing his own. First of all he bought a book of plain postcards and then laboriously wrote them out in ink one by one accompanied by his election address which was a short poem that he had composed himself.

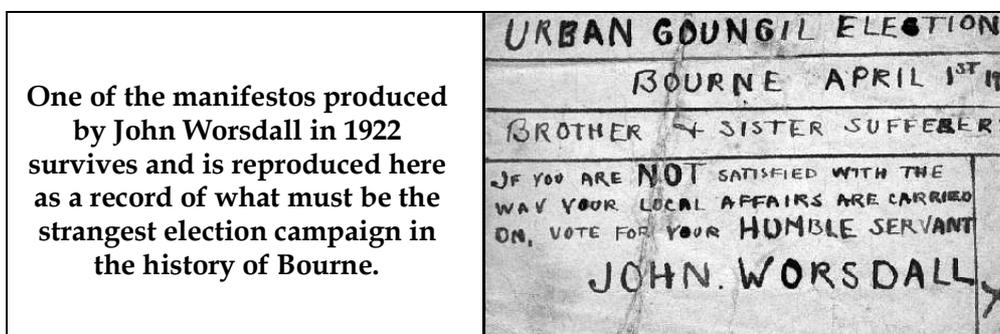
The *Lincolnshire Free Press* reported the results of the election on 1st April 1922 under the heading "Comments on Victors and Vanquished" and the observation that it had caused more local excitement than any previous contests. Councillor Arthur Wall topped the poll and retained his seat for the fourth successive election while another councillor, Frederick Clarke was similarly successful. But John Worsdall surprised everyone by polling sufficient votes to come third and the result was obviously a popular one. "He is in the region of an octogenarian", commented the newspaper, "and in many quarters was regarded as a dark horse. But even his most optimistic supporters never dreamt of his big score. Several prominent local questions no doubt had an influence on the election and when the names of certain winners were announced, there was some boisterous cheering."

His success caused a sensation in the town because three old and seemingly valued members were defeated in the process but after taking his seat, John soon earned an enviable reputation as Father of the Council, a veteran who, offend or please, always spoke his mind, whether relevant or irreverent, and the council chamber was a richer

Fifty brief lives

place for his presence. He abhorred convention, red tape was anathema, and at the very first meeting he attended after the election, he startled everyone by asking if there would be any objections to future meetings being held on licensed premises, one of his little jokes that did not go down well with the more staid members of the authority. At a later meeting, when councillors were discussing seating arrangements and procedures for committee and monthly meetings, Old John admonished them for wasting time. "Don't make too many regulations or else an old man like me will be breaking them every minute", he said.

But his familiarity with the locality was invaluable to the council and he was appointed to serve on all of the main committees with special responsibilities for fen drainage, a subject of which he had first hand experience, while he also enjoyed a reputation as a walking encyclopaedia on account of his knowledge of local drains and highways acquired during a spell as the Surveyor of Highways.



In politics, Old John described himself as being "a good old Tory", a remark he made on the platform during a public meeting at the Corn Exchange. For over half-a-century he had been regarded as true blue and was a former chairman of the Bourne and District Conservative Club. He had also been active in many other aspects of the town's affairs during his lifetime, being particularly keen on watching football, and by the time he was 79 he had attended every match played by Bourne Town at the Abbey Lawn ground with the exception of one fixture during the 1920-21 season. He was remarkably active for his age and his ready advice and humorous remarks were always a feature at any local gatherings he happened to attend.

John died the year after his election to the council and the passing of this well known and much loved townsman at the age of 81 after an illness lasting three months was marked by the tolling of the tenor bell at the Abbey Church at noon on Sunday 26th August 1923. He was genuinely mourned because few people who lived in the locality did not know of him or of his wise counsel, sound advice and loyal friendship. His death was grieved not only by his fellow council members but also by the public at large

He was interred the following day at Bourne Cemetery after a service in the Abbey Church conducted by the Vicar, Canon John Grinter, and there were many mourners, both friends and family, at the church and at the graveside despite the inclement weather. His grave was alongside that of his mother, Sarah Worsdall, who had died in October 1900 at the age of 81, and his wife Elizabeth Teresa Worsdall, who survived him, was buried with him when she died in September 1944 at the age of 94.



Robert Gardner
1850-1926

Robert Arthur Gardner was a bank manager in Bourne who also earned himself a reputation as a talented painter. He was born and educated at Peterborough where he began his career in banking with the Stamford, Spalding and Boston Banking Co Ltd which later became Barclays Bank, and after working at their Peterborough and Spalding branches, he moved to Bourne in 1884 as chief cashier. He returned to Peterborough for a spell but was appointed manager of the Bourne branch in 1894, a position he held until 1912 when he retired with 50 years of service to his credit. During this time he lived at Bank House in North Street, now converted for use as offices and occupied by the solicitors Andrews, Stanton and Ringrose, and in contemplation for his retirement, he had obtained a lease on Cawthorpe Hall and subsequently became the owner and this remained his home until he died at the age of 75.

Gardner never aspired to public office but his interest in the welfare of the town inevitably resulted in a number of appointments. In 1888 he became a magistrate for the Kesteven area of Lincolnshire, later becoming chairman of the bench at Bourne and when the Bourne Institute was founded in West Street in 1896 "for the healthy recreation, education and intellectual improvement of its members", he became its first president. In 1916, he was appointed a trustee of Bourne Charities and during the First World War he also served as president of the Volunteer Training Corps. His interests also extended to the Red Cross, participating in most of their fund-raising functions and he was also one of the local Income Tax Commissioners, a committee member of the Butterfield Hospital and local representative of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Sport was among his hobbies, particularly cricket, and during his early days in Bourne he had played for and captained the town XI and did not retire from the pitch until ten years before his death. He was also president or vice-president of many other sporting organisations in the district.

But most importantly, Gardner was a prolific painter who worked in France and Italy but he also loved the English rural life and many of his paintings depict scenes around Bourne. Several of his works were hung in the Royal Academy, notably *Hollyhocks*, his first acceptance which was hung in May 1902, one of only 1,200 accepted that year out of a total of 12,000 submitted, *Nice, the Italian Quarter* in the summer of 1915, the result of one of his many trips to Europe, and *Ryhall Mill* in May 1917, and he was subsequently appointed an associate member. In June 1924, he presented one of his larger paintings to Peterborough Museum where it can still be seen. It depicts the heronry in the grounds of Milton Hall, near Peterborough, home of the Fitzwilliam family, and the *Stamford*

Fifty brief lives

Mercury reported the gift by saying: "The picture is of great local interest. It is 36 inches by 28 inches and represents the heronry in its old site on the island and not in the trees of the adjoining wood as formerly. The artist has caught the lovely effects of light and shade which linger around this delightful spot at eventide."

He was also a generous supporter of the Art and Industrial Exhibition staged in Bourne in 1911 and was an exhibitor in the various classes. During his time at Cawthorpe Hall, he made extensive alterations to the property including the addition of the present studio and the installation of gas for heating and cooking. He and his wife Sarah also spent a lot of their time in the gardens which were beautifully kept and where they also played croquet.

In 1926, he took one of his usual holidays in the South of France where he was taken ill with influenza that developed into pneumonia and he died at Nice on 2nd March 1926. His body was brought home and buried in Bourne Cemetery after a service at the Abbey Church. His reputation was such that the blinds of all private residences in the town were drawn during the service and business premises were closed. The *Stamford Mercury* recorded his passing with a tribute to "a typical English gentleman". It said: "He was a friend of all sections of the community, irrespective of creed or social position. He was at home in any sphere of life and with any class or age of the community. Whilst religiously a member of the established church and a most regular attendant, he was extremely broad-minded and the members of the Free Churches ever found him a willing and generous supporter. He was an ideal speaker at any function, giving expression to a train of thought in pure English sentences; it is seldom that he spoke without revealing his keen sense of humour. He frequently made puns on his own name and invariably put any audience into good humour."

Gardner was revealed to be a wealthy man when his will was published in May 1926 because he left an estate worth more than £33,000 (£1.3 million by today's values) and apart from legacies to his immediate family, most of his money and property went to his widow. He had frequently donated his pictures as prizes for Bourne organisations and charities and so many remain in the town in private hands. On the 70th anniversary of his death in 1996, the town's Civic Society held a one-day exhibition of his work at the Red Hall where 40 of his paintings, including some that had been exhibited at the Royal Academy, were brought together for public view. Among them was one of his best-known works that is pictured above, a whimsical self-portrait showing the artist as a large moustachioed man relaxing in an armchair wearing his slippers and reading a newspaper.

Gardner lived at Cawthorpe Hall, a grand house on the outskirts of town which he first obtained on lease and then became the owner until his death in 1926, building a studio for his painting and hanging many of his canvases on the walls.



John Shilcock
1850-1927



The Shilcocks were not an old Bourne family when they rose to prominence in the town during the late 19th and early 20th centuries but they have left their mark and many descendants survive to this day. Best known among them was John Shilcock who established a reputation as a public house landlord and council chairman.

His father, Robert James Shilcock who was born in July 1823 at Helpringham, near Sleaford, the son of William Shilcock and his wife Frances Elizabeth (née Baxter) who had married there on 10th March 1818. Robert was the youngest of three children, having two elder sisters, and he moved to Bourne to start his own business and had soon begun a successful career in milling and brewing. He married a local girl, Charlotte Manby, daughter of John Manby, and they moved into a house in North Street where they raised a family and by 1876, Robert had become the owner of the Star Brewery that supplied many local public houses with their ale from their premises in Manning Road, the site later occupied by Johnson Bros (Bourne) Ltd, the agricultural machinery engineers and now developed as retirement homes. He became well known in the community for his public work, mainly through his appointment as Overseer of the Poor and as a trustee of the Bourne Charities and he was also for many years a member of the Town Assessment Committee, the Burial Board and chairman of New Association for the Prosecution of Felons, a position he held for 40 years until the time of his death at his home in North Road shortly after Christmas, on Saturday 27th December 1908, at the age of 85.

Robert and Charlotte had a large family including three sons, the youngest of them John Baxter Shilcock, born in 1850, and who was destined to become the first chairman of the parish council and then the urban district council when both bodies were instituted during local government reforms in the closing years of the 19th century. He started work in the brewery as a boy and by 1875 was in sole charge. In 1884, Robert Shilcock had sold the brewing business in Manning Road to Joseph Wyles to concentrate on their other interests in North Street as wine, spirit and linseed cake merchants, millers and malsters, while son John was about to embark on a new career as a pub landlord. In 1872, he had married Alice Thornton whose parents kept the Nag's Head in the Market Place and they went to live in a house at The Terrace in North Street. When her father died, Alice's widowed mother, Mrs Maria Thornton, ran the pub for a while with her son Thomas and daughter Martha until John and his wife took over the tenancy about 1895. It proved to be an astute move for both of them because he was to preside as mine host for a quarter of a century, proving to be not only a model landlord who increased custom dramatically in the bars of the public house, but also specialising in outside

Fifty brief lives

catering and there were few social occasions in Bourne for which he did not provide the food and the drink which soon became a very profitable sideline.

John's time was now being increasingly taken up with his two consuming passions, the church and local affairs. His father Robert had been a long-serving churchwarden of the Abbey Church and when he retired, John was nominated as his successor but there were other nominations and when he won the subsequent vote at the vestry meeting, a poll of the parish was taken and he won by a large majority. The office of people's churchwarden was a prestigious one at that time and much sought after and it also carried with it a trusteeship of the Bourne United Charities, an appointment he held until four years before his death. His interest in community matters prompted him to stand for election to the first parish council ever formed in Bourne, following the Local Government Act of 1894, when he was second in the polls and when Bourne Urban District Council was formed in 1899, he became one of its first members and its very first chairman. Like his father, he was also for many years a member of the town's New Association for the Prosecution of Felons and was its vice-chairman for twenty years, as well as being secretary of the Whit-Monday Sports and Horse Show, the Fatstock Show Society and the Foal Show Society. John also maintained a keen interest in sport and was for many years the regular umpire for Bourne Town Cricket Club. Politically, he was Conservative but held democratic views on many subjects and was frequently outspoken on public matters.

The Nag's Head in the market place was a popular hostelry during the 19th century and also a meeting place for local businessmen where the town's affairs were often decided.



But he was best known in the town as the landlord of the Nag's Head which he and his wife Alice kept for 25 years. They had six daughters, all renowned for their beauty and keenly sought in marriage. Alice Mary (1873) married Dr Arthur Boulton from Horncastle in 1895, Annie Beatrice (1875) married Thomas Mays in 1898, Fanny (1877) married Harry Dellow from Croydon in 1896, Martha Louise (1880) married John Agnew from Sleaford in 1903, Ida Maud (1885) married Charles Wiggin from County Cork in 1920 and Ethel, known as Effie (1887), married Harold Twell in 1917.

It was while he was landlord of the Nag's Head that John Shilcock fell foul of the rationing restrictions during the Great War of 1914-18 which led to his appearance before the magistrates in the police court at Bourne Town Hall on Thursday 26th September 1918 when he was summoned for three breaches of the regulations and was fined 5s. on each of the three summonses and ordered to pay £1 1s. costs.

The couple retired from the Nag's Head in 1920 and went to live in North Road where John died on 14th June 1927, aged 77. His wife Alice survived him by ten years and died on 9th October 1937 aged 84 and they are buried in the same grave at the town cemetery.

Thomas Baxter
1854-1920



The young assistant engaged by Robert Mason Mills to run his chemist's shop at No 1 West Street in 1878 was destined to become one of the town's most prominent citizens during the next 40 years. He was Thomas Moore Baxter who married his employer's only daughter Emily and later became a partner in the business, eventually taking over the company when Mills died in 1904.

Thomas Baxter was born at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, on 15th August 1854, the second son of a successful wine merchant, chemist and ship owner who had been engaged on the transportation of forage during the Crimean War of 1853-56. He too became a chemist and after qualifying in his profession, left home to join a relation in the management of a business at Brighton. He met Emily Mills and they became engaged and at the age of 24, moved to Bourne where he began a successful career, firstly managing the shop and then the aerated water business that Robert Mills had started in 1864. It was mainly due to his business acumen and enterprising methods that the firm R M Mills and Co flourished and soon ranked as one of the biggest companies of its kind in Lincolnshire.

His interests also extended to agriculture which brought him into contact with many farmers in the locality and he became a frequent prize winner at agricultural shows. He also made his mark in community affairs, becoming a member of the parish council in Bourne when it was established under the Local Government Act of 1894 and then of Bourne Urban District Council when it was formed in April 1899, sitting on most of the principal committees and serving as chairman of housing and gas. Fen drainage was also a matter of importance to him and he was for many years a member of the South Fen Drainage Trust.

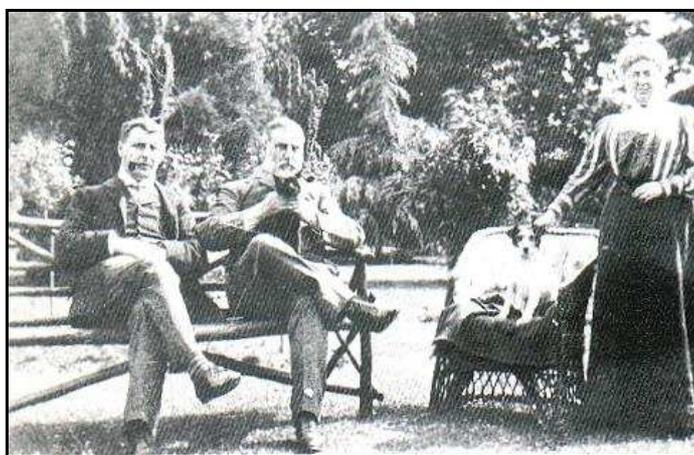
In the years that followed, Baxter became associated with many of the town's organisations, official, social, and sporting, serving as a Justice of the Peace, a charity trustee, an Overseer of the Poor, a director of the gas and waterworks companies, vice-president of the Tradesmen's Association and an executive committee member of the Bourne Institute. Like his father-in-law before him, he was also agent to the Marquis of Exeter who was Lord of the Manor of Bourne and he also acted on behalf of Lord Kesteven in distributing benefits to tenants of the Trollope bedehouses in South Street (now the Tudor almshouses).

For many years, he also took an active interest in secondary education and in 1910, tried to revive the old grammar school which had then been disused since 1903. He wrote to Lord Kesteven: "The old school wants a little attention, the roof is not rainproof, and the mischievous young Bournites have broken a good many panes of glass in the windows." His appeal was unsuccessful but in 1918 he renewed his attempts to introduce

Fifty brief lives

secondary education in Bourne and the public debate that ensued led to the opening of a secondary school in North Street, Bourne, in September 1920, although he did not live to see it.

Mr Baxter was also an advocate of improved facilities for public health and, together with Alderman William Wherry, helped in the formation of the Bourne Nursing Association in 1899, subsequently serving as its treasurer, and when the Butterfield Hospital opened in 1910 he became a trustee, a post he held until his death. Like his father in law, he was a staunch churchman and became vicar's warden at the Abbey Church in 1893, serving three incumbents for the next 27 years and from 1892, he also acted as treasurer for the various restoration funds associated with the building. He was 60 when the First World War began in 1914 and was therefore ineligible for military service but served on the home front as a member of the Bourne Urban Military Tribunal, vice-chairman of the Kesteven Appeal Tribunal and a member of the Bourne Urban Food Control Committee.



Thomas Baxter (second from left) at home with his family

His political beliefs were Conservative and few meetings took place at the Corn Exchange without his presence on the platform. He was also untiring in his work on behalf of the Primrose League, the organisation instituted in 1883 by Lord Randolph Churchill and others that was devoted to the spreading of Conservative principles such as the maintenance of religion, the estates of the realm and Great Britain's imperial ascendancy, serving as a deputy ruling councillor. He was also a founder member of the Bourne branch of the National Conservative League, later being appointed its Deputy Grand Master. He became chairman of the urban district council in 1915-16 and the same year served as Worshipful Master of the Hereward Lodge of Freemasons.

Thomas Baxter was particularly fond of angling, both as a participant and as an administrator, becoming president of the Bourne Angling Association and an enthusiastic presence at their monthly meetings. He subsequently purchased the fishing rights for the parish of Bourne along the Bourne Eau and River Glen for the club's use that were passed on to his son Cyril after his death.

The vicar, Canon John Grinter, paid a handsome tribute to his warden on receiving his letter of resignation the evening before his death: "I can never thank you for all the care, thought, labour and money which you and your family have so generously bestowed on the church and I know the beautiful old abbey is very dear to you. It has been one of the

Fifty brief lives

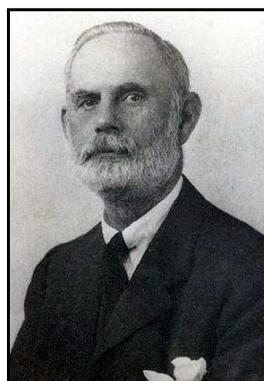
happiest experiences of my ministry to work with a layman who so thoroughly has the church and its welfare at heart and I regret beyond measure that the time has been so short. The reverence, dignity and business-like manner in which you have always discharged your duties have been most marked and your grand example will live long in the memories of church people at Bourne."

The *Lincolnshire Free Press* was even more fulsome in its praise of a man who had become a pillar of the community during three decades of public service. His extensive obituary, published on 13th April 1920, said: "It is with unfeigned regret that we chronicle his passing. In a nutshell, his life was one of indomitable perseverance. Success characterised his whole business career. His diurnal occupations would have been more than sufficient for most businessmen but his was another instance of the busy man making time to do what he could for the benefit of fellow townsmen. His business capacity fitted him for public work and the town owes a debt of gratitude to him for his long and excellent services. He was a man who also commanded a good knowledge of language and was thoroughly versed in all public matters. Whether a matter was popular or not, Mr Baxter always spoke his mind. He never put his conscience in his pocket for the sake of popularity but he aired his views whether supported or not. One calls to mind a bombshell he threw at a charity inquiry some years ago when he made a startling indictment concerning the distribution of charities and during his public career he had several times been a central figure in argumentative debates. Although implacable in his views, he would never descend to upbraid an opponent and though the strongest of party men, he would never allow his political feelings to enter any argument where there might be a disturbing element in any of his other spheres of life. It is no mere platitude to state that Mr Baxter will be a much missed man."

The funeral took place at the Abbey Church on Tuesday 13th April, conducted by Canon Grinter and a memorial service was held the following Sunday, preceded by a muffled peal of the bells. The vicar referred to Baxter's long association with the church and added: "The scarcity of such men has made their places all the more difficult to fill and I appeal to the younger generation to play their part in the work hitherto carried on by men like Thomas Moore Baxter."

In his will, Thomas bequeathed £200 to the Butterfield Hospital and one of the beds in the new wards then being planned for the 1921 extension was named after him. A more curious legacy was that of £100 (about £3,000 at today's spending value) to the Abbey Church with the request that a Jacobean oak pulpit be provided to replace that currently in use. This particular bequest refers to the incongruous stone pulpit that was installed in 1890 to replace its oak Jacobean predecessor that had been sold off to the parish of Frampton, near Boston, Lincolnshire, for three guineas in the belief that a Norman church should have a Norman pulpit. It was later discovered that this supposition was incorrect and that such churches had no pulpit. Baxter must have looked at this anachronism with some annoyance during his 27 years as vicar's warden and may have been trying to remedy the travesty but although the money was received and the church architects, Traylen and Lenton of Stamford, instructed to provide a probable cost for the project, his wishes were not carried out because the stone pulpit remains intact. Instead, the £100 was used to help finance a Lady Chapel in the church and the balance was met by his widow, Mrs Emily Baxter "as a gift of love and gratitude" and it was installed the following year.

John Swift
1855-1939



John Thomas Swift is best remembered today by his book about the town and locality written during the early part of the 20th century, although few copies survive outside the reference sections of the public libraries in this part of Lincolnshire. He was born in 1855, the son of William Peck Swift, a grocer and draper, of Church Street [now Abbey Road], and his wife Caroline, who already had six daughters, Emily, Sophia, Rosamond, Selina, Mary and Caroline, and a son, Charles. He was educated locally and became a stalwart supporter of the Baptist Chapel in West Street, and in 1880, he married a woman five years older than himself, Henrietta Mary Story, born 17th April 1850, daughter of Mr Joseph Story, an ironmonger with business premises in North Street, Bourne. To mark the marriage the couple were presented with a handsome black marble clock by the teachers of scholars of the Sunday School at the chapel with which they were both so closely associated.

By this time, Swift was so well known in the town that the gift was put on public display for a time in the shop window of Mr Thomas Pearce, the watch and clock maker, in North Street. He became a justice of the peace, sitting on the Bourne bench of magistrates, and a member of Bourne Urban District Council and served as chairman from 1908-09. By 1913, he was chairman of the Bourne Urban District sub-committee of the Kesteven Local Pension Committee, the official body that determined claims for entitlement to the old age pension that had only been introduced by Act of Parliament in 1908. He also became a member of Kesteven County Council, one of the three county authorities responsible for local government administration in Lincolnshire prior to the local government re-organisation of 1974, and was subsequently elevated to the aldermanship. The ancient title of alderman was still then being used by municipal authorities [until 1972] and bestowed on those senior members of the borough or county councils in England who had been selected by fellow councillors for their valuable service to the community and whose wisdom and advice carried respect.

Youth and education were among his main interests and he served as a manager of the council or board school [now the Abbey CE Primary School], chairman of the governors of Bourne Grammar School and as chairman of the Juvenile Advisory Committee, a local organisation dedicated to finding employment for young people. But his hobby was local history and his book, a modest work published in 1925, was entitled Bourne and People associated with Bourne although this owes much to an earlier publication Historic Bourne by J J Davies, published in 1909. He used the research he had carried out for the book to give lectures to a wide variety of local organisations and, in those days before radio and television, was in great demand, and he soon became well known in the town, not only as an administrator through his council work, but also as an historian

Fifty brief lives

with an apparently intimate knowledge of Bourne's past. A typical example of his talks is that which he gave in the church on Monday 19th March 1923 and the *Stamford Mercury* reported afterwards that he delivered "a further instalment in his series of interesting records of Bourne under the title *Recollections of Bourne church tower* and the Rev Glyn Morgan presided over a very good attendance".

Swift was also responsible for the detailed research into the list of past abbots and vicars of Bourne, from the 12th century to the present day, that appeared in the first definitive history of the Abbey Church compiled by C Pask Matthews, headmaster of Bourne Grammar School in 1930, and is still the standard reference today. His reputation on historical subjects was respected and he was frequently called on to give his expert opinion. One notable occasion occurred during a meeting of ratepayers in the Town Hall on Thursday 3rd November 1921 that had been called to sanction the purchase of the market rights from the Lord of the Manor, the Marquess of Exeter, by Bourne Urban District Council, for £50. The main opponents to the transaction were members of the Moisey family who had collected the rents for many years but their claim to have held the market rights for more than three centuries was disputed. Alderman Swift was called in to give his opinion and he told the meeting that he had searched the church records but there was no such name as Moisey registered in Bourne 300 years ago.

The Swifts had been married for 41 years when Mrs Swift died on 13th April 1921 at the age of 70. She had been in failing health for some time but her death was a blow to many organisations because, like her husband, she played an important part in public affairs. Though unsuccessful, she stood for election to Bourne Rural District Council but had the honour of being one of the first two ladies co-opted as trustees to the Board of Guardians whose main task was the administration of the workhouse, later St Peter's Hospital, a position she held until her death. She had also been an active worker for the Butterfield Hospital from its opening in 1910 and helped oversee the day to day running of its affairs. When the National Health Service Insurance Committee was established she was elected to represent Kesteven in Bourne and remained a member until her death. Like her husband, Mrs Swift was a staunch supporter of Liberal principles and played a prominent part in the work of the Women's Liberal Association. Religion was also an important part of her life and for some time she was closely associated with the Baptist denomination but in later years switched her support to the Congregational Church in Bourne.

Mrs Swift was so respected in the town that tributes were paid to her work after her death by the various organisations with which she had been connected and even by members of Bourne Urban District Council at their next meeting. The *Stamford Mercury* recorded her passing in these words: "Amidst many manifestations of regret, the funeral took place on Saturday afternoon at the cemetery. On route, the blinds of residences were drawn and business establishments temporarily closed. The coffin was deposited in a grave beautifully decorated, chiefly with ivy and daffodils. Numerous floral tributes were placed on the grave, including one from the matron and officers at Wellhead House [the workhouse] with the inscription: "Called to a higher service." The couple had one son, William Ashby Swift, who died in 1941 at the age of 59.

John Swift outlived Henrietta until 3rd June 1939 when he died at their home in North Road, Bourne, at the age of 84 and they are buried together in a double grave at the town cemetery.

Joseph Davies 1856-1920

One of the early books on the development of this town was *Historic Bourne* written by J J Davies almost a century ago. He was also a schoolmaster of some distinction, serving as head of the Board School for 33 years.

Joseph James Davies was born in London in 1856 but his family moved to Lincolnshire and he spent his early years in Boston and later Grantham where he started his scholastic career as a pupil teacher. He attended a teacher training course at Carmarthen and after qualifying, was appointed headmaster of the York Road School in London, a position he held for only a short period before returning to Lincolnshire and the headship of the village school at Great Ponton. He served there until 1887 when he moved to Bourne where he remained for the rest of his life and which became his accepted home town.

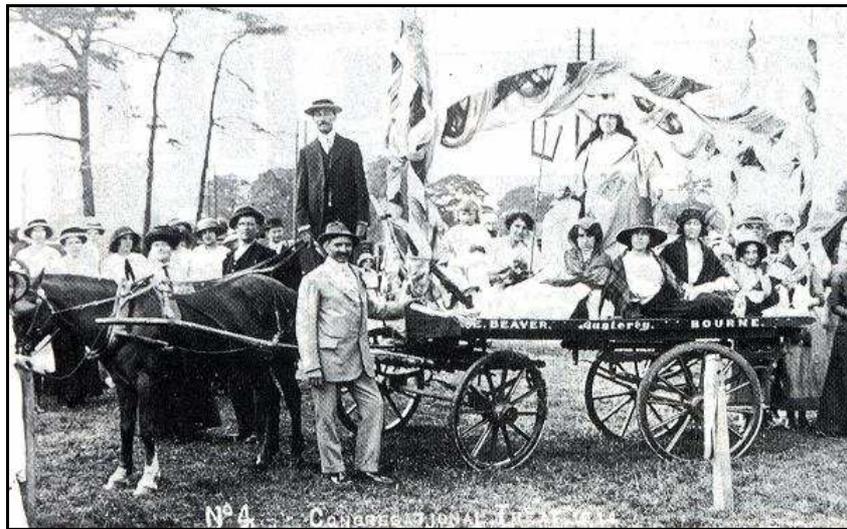
His appointment was as headmaster of the Boys' Council or Board School, now the Abbey Road Primary School, and during the next three decades, 2,000 boys came under his influence and training and he soon became highly regarded in the town. "He was unrivalled as an educationalist", reported the *Stamford Mercury* when he died. "By his demise, the town has lost one of the most valuable assets from the standpoint of a teacher and a Christian character that it has ever possessed. There are many traits by which his name will live in the memory of those who were privileged to work either under him or with him but the outstanding feature which overshadowed everything else was the man of high intellectual attainments, who taught not merely as a schoolmaster in elementary education, but also by the high standard of his everyday life. His profession was to him not merely a vocation, but behind the stereotyped teaching of the schoolboy was not only that the boy should become a good scholar, but that in his schooldays should be laid the foundation upon which man's life and character should be built. With such aims and ideals, there is little wonder that between teacher and scholar should exist so profound a regard the one for the other which has found its expression in numerous ways, none perhaps so prominent as the letters from old boys during the First World War (1914-18). No adequate calculation can be made of the value of such a teacher."

Mr Davies was a devoutly religious man, strongly attached to the established church and a keen supporter of Low Church principles and with characteristic broadmindedness, was a ready and willing helper of the free churches in the town. When the PSA (Pleasant Sunday Afternoon) gatherings were held at the Baptist Church, he was a prominent worker and frequent speaker at their meetings and was often found in the pulpit of other free churches in the town and neighbourhood and he invariably attended most of their evening and weekend functions.

He was also an active campaigner for further education and in 1888, he began evening classes during the winter months in conjunction with the school's Science and Art Department which attracted a large attendance from the town and surrounding area. Among the subjects on the curriculum were animal physiology, geology, acoustics, light and heat and mathematics, and, due to popular demand, classes for shorthand were later included. His work as a local historian is also on record through his authorship of *Historic Bourne*, an illustrated work printed and published in 1909 by William Pearce of

Fifty brief lives

North Street, Bourne, a book no longer in print but a modest forerunner of J D Birkbeck's more studious publication. This was a concentration of his research and knowledge of the town and was a natural adjunct to his freelance journalism. He became such a prolific writer that a successful career as journalist could have been his but he satisfied himself by filling the post of local representative for most of the newspapers that circulated in Bourne, notably the Stamford Mercury, and as a frequent contributor to several of the London magazines and newspapers. A close friend once remarked: "If his mind had a purely mercenary trend, he might have made a much greater financial success of life in literature than was to be obtained in the teaching profession but fascinating as the literary work was to him, Mr Davies held to his first choice and sacrificed finance for the influence he could bring to bear on the young life."



Mr Davies (standing on the cart) pictured during a church gala in 1914

His love of education as a necessary advancement for young people was reflected in his unstinting work for the establishment of a secondary school in Bourne when public opinion was largely against it. Ten years before his death, at a public meeting called to discuss its merits, he prophesied: "It will come" and during his lifetime, he was able to witness the establishment of a secondary school which opened in North Street, Bourne, in September 1920, two months before he died.

Mr Davies also took a keen interest in public affairs and became one of the first members of Bourne Parish Council on its formation as a result of the Local Government Act of 1894. He discovered however that the meetings of the council clashed with those of his evening classes and after his first year in office, he retired and did not seek another seat on any public authority again in case such work came into conflict with his teaching.

During the First World War (1914-18), when the Bourne Volunteer Training Corps was formed, he was one of the first members to be enrolled, believing that it was right to serve on the home front as well as on active service but his contribution far exceeded his attendance on drill nights and he spent many hours writing cheery letters to his ex-boys who had become serving soldiers at home and abroad, and to the parents of those who were lost in action. His own two sons served in the war and the eldest was severely wounded and he felt it his duty to help alleviate the sorrow and trouble of others in similar circumstances.

Fifty brief lives

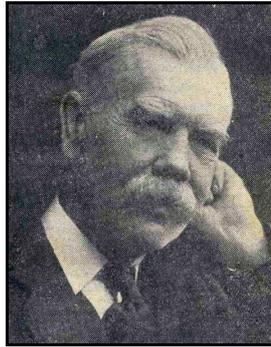
Mr Davies was an active member of the Hereward Lodge of Freemasons and served twice as Grand Master. He was also the first chairman of the Bourne branch of the National Union of Teachers and for many years its honorary secretary. He regarded himself as an advanced Liberal in politics and during the various Parliamentary contests was frequently to be found on the platform as a speaker at the hustings but otherwise he took no prominent part. He was also a popular and frequent speaker for many local organisations, his favourite topic being Notable Men of Lincolnshire, much of the material used on these occasions being based on the research he had carried out for his book.

He enjoyed a reputation as a popular speaker and was in great demand at readings and concerts in the town, appearing regularly at the Bourne Mutual Improvement Society which met during the winter months for debates and discussions, and he frequently took the stage telling stories and reading poems during theatrical presentations by schools and churches as well as giving passionate testimonies against the evils of drink and how to give up alcohol at meetings of the Church of England Temperance Society.

Mr Davies, who lived at 77 North Road, suffered declining health during the final years of his life and retired in the summer of 1920 but died from heart failure the following November 19th at the age of 64. His wife Elizabeth Ann survived him for almost ten years and died on 18th March 1930, aged 72. They are buried in the same grave in the town cemetery. The two sons from the marriage were Victor, who held a responsible position in Ireland, and Oliver, who was the village schoolmaster at Edenham. Their daughter, Dorothea (Dora) Josephine Davies, had died shortly before him, on 24th September 1920, at the age of 38. His funeral was held at the Abbey Church on Wednesday 24th November 1920 but Mrs Davies was unable to attend because of poor health.

Teachers and boys from the school were among the mourners and they formed a cordon on either side of the cortege as it moved slowly down South Street on its way to the cemetery and again at the graveside. The service was conducted by the vicar, Canon John Grinter who also officiated at a memorial service in the church the following Sunday. There was a pause in the service at the graveside while freemasons from the Hereward Lodge dropped a sprig of acacia on the coffin. The memorial service was an impressive occasion when the vicar paid a high tribute to Mr Davies in which he said: "He was a man of sanctified common sense who earnestly endeavoured to leave the world better than he found it and, what was more, endeavoured to get others to do likewise. His life was one of love and purity, nobleness and self-sacrifice. All in the town bear witness to his goodness and all respected him. He walked upright and worked with righteousness.

"He was a man of power as well as of goodness. He had a strong will but it was never ever governed by wrong reason and whilst he had the courage of his own conviction he would listen to others, but he would also listen to the voice of his own conscience. Year in and year out, he impressed on the lads committed to his care the necessity of striving after goodness to live for unselfish ends and to do their duty at all costs. It was no wonder that so many Bourne lads went forth willingly to give their best at the call of King and country, for their master had ever taught them that the mark upon every good deed had the sign of the Cross, unselfish love and devotion to duty. Richly endowed with personal charm and unbounded influence, his memory will long be cherished by those whom he delighted to call 'his dear boys'."



Alfred Stubbley
1859-1932

During the years before television, Alfred Stubbley brought make believe to many during his career as a scenic artist, using his vivid imagination to produce stage sets for a wide variety of social events and amateur theatrical presentations in Bourne and the surrounding towns. His name became so well known in the county and beyond that the following tribute appeared in a feature on Bourne published by the Lincolnshire Gazette in 1924 in a series entitled Lincolnshire Town and Village Life written by H Green: "Mr Stubbley, the scenic artist is known all over England for his bazaar productions. We have seen his magic change the dull formal interior of a corn exchange or drill hall into a garden of Japan, a street in Sunny Spain or a palace of ice stalactites. His studio is a picturesque being in itself and it is a fascinating experience to look through his warehouses in which are stored away old English, Norman, Flemish and all manner of representations of former and latter day architecture side by side, as well as to meet the courteous producer of it all."

One of his notable successes was at Christmas in 1887 when he designed the sets for a grand fancy fair, similar to our modern pantomimes, which was staged at the Corn Exchange shortly after Boxing Day to raise funds for the Congregational Church in Eastgate [now the United Reformed Church] and the hall had been decorated as a street of nations or a grand international bazaar, with oriental and European architecture.

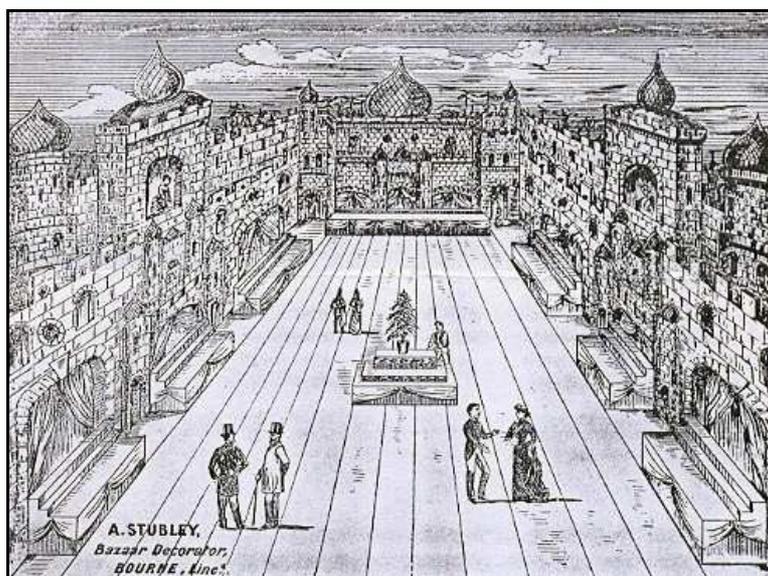
The *Stamford Mercury* printed a description of the colourful setting: "The scene was laid in Canton. The peculiar conglomeration of Oriental and European architecture was depicted with realistic effect. Proceeding down the left side of the street, the enterprising traveller passed in succession a Persian residence, an Indian cottage, a Chinese house, a delightful Japanese village, a Tyrolese chalet, a snug mountain home covered with snow and having icicles pendent from the roof, a magnificent Buddhist temple having its elaborate exterior embellished with representatives of the Oriental deity and dragons, and the last abode in the curious street was an Australian log hut. The articles exhibited on the various stalls were both useful and ornamental. Various entertainments were given in the evenings. Vocal and instrumental musical items and presentations were performed at intervals which were very popular. The promoters of the enterprise are to be congratulated on the success which has deservedly crowned their efforts."

Another major triumph came the following year when he designed the sets for the Grand Bazaar, also held in the Corn Exchange, on Monday and Tuesday, the 28th and 29th May 1888, when the room was adorned with his colourful banners and the walls covered with his various designs. The event was a spectacular success and the *Stamford Mercury* reported: "The interior of the hall presented a pleasing appearance. The roof

Fifty brief lives

was festooned with banners and the walls were adorned with ornamental devices. Mr Alfred Stublely undertook the decorations and the stalls were visions of beauty." There were many other examples of his art and whenever a local production or bazaar was being held, Alfred Stublely's imagination was invariably at work to make the event a success. His help was particularly valued by local musical and drama groups such as the Bourne Amateur Operatic Society which presented annual performances at the Corn Exchange in the early years of the 20th century with his stage sets.

Oliver Alfred Stublely was born in the town on 17th March 1859, son of farmer William Stublely and his wife Mary Ann. He attended the council school before learning his trade as a painter and decorator and soon established his business at 28 West Street where he lived with his family, working from the workshops and warehouses at the rear, now all demolished. He earned his living painting, paper hanging, sign writing and plumbing but his private passion was the theatre and few stage productions, bazaars or big social occasions in the town did not bear his mark. He also designed the floats and the tableaux staged on the back of lorries for the many charity pageants held in the town, working long hours to ensure that all was perfect when they finally took to the road for the enjoyment of the people and to perpetuate a good cause. The presentations he created for bazaars became so popular that he published a 22-page illustrated advertising booklet describing them for the benefit of interested committees and printed by John Pearce at his Belle Sauvage Works behind the Post Office in North Street and containing details of his achievements and a series of press notices and testimonials to his work.



Alfred Stublely's popular grand Russian ice palace

Mr Stublely suffered a serious setback in 1897 when his workshop was destroyed by fire. The outbreak occurred soon after lunchtime on Wednesday 30th June and as the building was made of wood and contained a great deal of inflammable material, the flames soon spread to the Baptist Church which was almost next door. The greater portion of his valuable scenery was stored in a building adjoining which was not affected but the church interior was badly damaged.

Ironically, he was also a dedicated churchman who worshipped at the Baptist Church. In July 1924, when the church celebrated its centenary, he was honoured for his work with

Fifty brief lives

the Sunday School with which he had been associated for 50 years and was presented with the diploma of the National Sunday School Union and a Jacobean oak table from the congregation in recognition of his dedicated service. Equally distinguished were his 50 years as choirmaster at the church and his love of music inspired him to form the Bourne Town Band in 1887 after appealing for support with a notice in the local newspaper, becoming the first conductor until succeeded by Mr F J Clarke.

He was also a member of Bourne Parish Council which came into being as a result of the Local Government Act of 1894 and functioned until 1898 when its duties passed to Bourne Urban District Council although he never tried to obtain a seat on the new authority. During his time as a parish councillor, it was his insistence and technical ability which led to the installation of an illuminated clock on the front of the Town Hall. In May 1880, he married farmer's daughter Elizabeth Walker, of Wansford, near Peterborough, and they had eleven children, seven girls and four boys, Nell (1881), Lilian (1882), Ethel (1884), Hilda (1886), Ida (1888), Alfred Ernest (1891), Fred (1893), Cecil Henry (1896), Kathleen Elizabeth (1898), John Oliver (1902) and Marie Phyllis (1906). Hilda married Horace Hassock and emigrated to Australia, Alfred emigrated to Canada while the others remained in Bourne where the Stubley name still survives.

Mr Stubley died in the autumn of 1932, aged 73. He had been in failing health for some time and was admitted to St Peter's Hospital, London, where a minor operation was performed in the hope that he could withstand major surgery later on and although he rallied for a while, his condition deteriorated and he died on Thursday 27th October. His body was brought back to Bourne the following Saturday for the funeral service at the Baptist Church he loved when his favourite hymns, Jesus shall reign where é're the sun, I do not ask, O Lord, O love that will not let me go and The day thou gavest Lord is ended, were sung by choir and congregation in his memory. The town turned out to pay tribute and the following day, Sunday, a memorial service was held to honour the man who had brought joy to so many. The Rev A W Gunstone, who conducted the funeral service, said that he had fulfilled his life in many ways, as a husband and father, and as someone who had given so much time to provide pleasure for the community.

Four deacons from the church carried the coffin for his burial in the town cemetery and a mass of flowers were laid on his grave where his wife, Elizabeth, who survived him until 20th January 1952 when she died, aged 94, is also buried.

A final eulogy to his work appeared in the *Lincolnshire Free Press* soon after he died, a newspaper which he suggested had been the catalyst for his success. Their issue of 27th October 1932 which carried his funeral notice, said: "Mr Stubley's capabilities as a scenic artist were as great as his talent in matters musical and it was his proud boast that it was a report in this newspaper of a bazaar at Spalding nearly fifty years ago which first set his feet on the road to success in this connection. He was known almost the country over as an expert scene painter and to him had been allotted the task of preparing suitable scenery at bazaars and similar functions in nearly every part of the United Kingdom. In connection with this work he had travelled as far as Scotland in the north and nearly to Land's End in the south. His artistic skill made him many friends and he could turn out almost any scene with a little paint, some canvas and a few sticks. With uncanny accuracy, villages sprang up almost in a night on canvas and he could easily depict an arctic or arid scene as a Palestine panorama."

Dr John Gilpin 1864-1943



Dr Gilpin at the military hospital with nurses and patients in 1917

One of Bourne's early motoring pioneers was Dr William John Gilpin, a general practitioner who preferred to be known as John. He was born at Bedford in 1864 but after completing his education and qualifying as a medical practitioner, he moved to the town in the late 19th century to take over the practice at Brook Lodge in South Street. In 1900, he married Ada Maria Bott (née Slater), aged 38, widow of Arthur Bott, owner of the Angel Hotel, who had died in 1899, thus becoming step-father to their son Henry Malcolm Bott who had been born on 1st December 1898. Life was a comfortable one at Brook Lodge with servants to look after them, a cook and a handyman, and a domestic nurse or nanny to care for the child.

The doctor soon became a familiar figure out on his rounds in a pony and trap until he purchased a car, becoming one of the first people in the town to own one, and was often seen driving around at the wheel of his Peugeot, later a French Gregoire, sometimes with his wife or another companion in the front passenger seat, and occasionally the family nanny, Jessie Moore, a local girl in her early twenties. He earned himself a reputation as a flamboyant character, plain speaking but kindly, a man who enjoyed the pleasures of life, particularly his pipe which he was known to smoke during surgery hours. He also liked shooting, fishing and walking and could often be seen strolling around town with his two pet spaniels while his wife was renowned for serving a delicious walnut fruit cake whenever anyone came to tea.

Motoring was his great passion and he joined the Lincolnshire Automobile Club, an organisation that had been formed in 1900 and had 91 members within two years and by 1914 the figure had risen to 322, one in every six of them being a doctor, professional men who could afford such a luxury. In 1904, he read a paper on the economics of motoring to the club, giving some facts concerning car ownership based on his own experience. He estimated that if £25 a year were spent on tyres, 6,000 miles of motoring would be possible in that period. Allowing for 15 shillings (75p) as a weekly wage for a man to look after the car and also to do the work in the garden and various other odd jobs, then reckoning the further expense of petrol, clothes, accumulators, licences and repairs, he estimated the cost of his motoring worked out at 3½ pence a mile [92p by

Fifty brief lives

today's values]. This contrasted very favourably with horse transport for in earlier days, when the doctor had relied on that, it had cost him sixpence a mile. He had paid £200 for the vehicle itself and in his opinion, each year would see more uniformity in the types of cars while depreciation would be limited to the wear and tear of tyres. He was right about the proliferation of the different car models although motoring expenses overall appear to be much higher today.

Dr Gilpin became an active member and competitor, winning a silver medal in 1905 for driving in a 100-mile non-stop run through the county in his Peugeot car. His close friend, Thomas William Mays, father of Raymond who was to achieve fame as an international racing driver and designer, was also a member and competitor and the two of them were successful in the club's speed trials held at Grimsthorpe Park in March 1910 when Mr Mays won the Newsum Challenge Cup for the third time and therefore the trophy became his property. He was driving a De Dion and Dr Gilpin took second place with his new Gregoire car. This vehicle became his prized possession and anyone who damaged it did so at their peril and on one occasion, he sued a local farmer after one of his milk floats had run into it and was subsequently ordered by the county court to pay £6 4s. 0d., being the cost of repairing the damage.

Dr Gilpin was a familiar sight driving about Bourne in his motor car and is seen here leaving Brook Lodge in Church Walk with his children's nanny in the passenger seat.



During the Great War of 1914-18, Dr Gilpin was appointed commandant of the military hospital run by the Red Cross which was established at the Vestry Hall in North Street from November 1914 until December 1918 during which time 945 wounded soldiers from the front line were cared for and in June 1918 he was awarded the MBE for his services in conducting the unit in such an efficient manner. There were fears for his health in 1917 when he contracted blood poisoning while carrying out a post mortem examination and although he was seriously ill for a time, he recovered and was back at work within weeks.

Dr Gilpin remained in Bourne until retiring in 1929 when he went to live at 61, Sunningdale Drive, Skegness, but returned to medical duties for a time at the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 because of the country-wide shortage of doctors. There was speculation that he needed the money, having lost a large part of his income through bad investments, but this is unlikely because he died a wealthy man in 1943, aged 79, leaving almost £10,000 in his will, which would be worth £300,000 by today's values. His work for the community was recognised by Bourne Town Council in the spring of 2004. Streets on the new housing estate being built on the site of the former Bourne Hospital in South Road were being given names with medical connections and one of them was called Gilpin Close in his memory.

Thomas Rickard
1865-1931



Memories of Tom Rickard after his death were of a successful businessman who lived a life of Christian charity and earned a reputation for his innate goodness. His sudden death, at the age of 65, was mourned by the entire town and the Wesleyan [Methodist] Church in Bourne was packed to the doors for his funeral.

Thomas Rickard was born at Calstock, Cornwall, in 1865 and moved to Bourne as a young man in 1891 to work as an ironmonger's assistant in the shop premises at No 30 North Street owned by Messrs Foley Brothers who had just taken over the business from the late Arnold Pick. He showed enthusiasm, flair and ambition and was transferred from the shop to the rapidly developing agricultural machinery department then being developed in Meadowgate and for twenty years worked there as personal travelling representative and salesman for the owner, Ernest Foley. In 1918, although middle-aged, he decided to branch out on his own and built business premises alongside the cattle market site and soon afterwards opened a branch at Boston with his son Howard as manager. Three years later, the business became a limited liability company and following the death of Ernest Foley, he acquired the business where he began his career, the legal transaction being completed in 1930, just a few months before his death.

Despite being one of the most successful businessmen in Bourne, Mr Rickard also devoted a great deal of his time to religious, public and social work. He was an active member of the Wesleyan Church where he held many lay appointments including that of steward and a Sunday School teacher and for a long period, choirmaster, an appointment that reflected his appreciation for music which was also shared by members of his family, notably his daughter, Mrs Oliver Wall, an accomplished pianist and organist.

His participation in public life began with election to Bourne Urban District Council in 1924 and he subsequently earned the esteem of his colleagues to win their support for the chairmanship from 1929-30. His interests lay in many fields but his work in improving the refuse collection service was particularly valuable and he was also chairman of the Fire Brigade Committee which authorised the purchase of the latest available equipment. Social work saw the beginning of regular rag days which succeeded in raising funds for the Butterfield Hospital while his involvement with the business and commercial life of the town also brought about the revival of the Tradesmen's Association that had foundered some years before.

He died suddenly at Calstock House, his home in North Road (named after his birthplace in Cornwall) on Monday 19th January 1931, aged 65. He had been unwell for some months but apart from brief interludes, had been able to attend to his business

Fifty brief lives

affairs and in the final few days he had been confined to the house although his condition was not regarded as serious. During the evening, he called to his wife and daughter who was visiting for help and they assisted him to a chair until the arrival of Dr John Galletly who diagnosed that he had suffered a seizure and he died shortly afterwards.

The funeral was held the following Friday at the Wesleyan Church, the coffin being carried by members of the Bourne Fire Brigade and the fire engine following bearing the wreaths, the church being filled with mourners from all walks of life with many deputations from those organisations with which he had been associated including BUDC led by the chairman, Councillor Mrs Caroline Galletly. Canon John Grinter, the Vicar of Bourne, was unable to attend the funeral but said afterwards: "No one knows all the many acts of kindness that he has rendered. His religious life better fitted him for the public duties that he had undertaken, duties which few were willing to assume and which were becoming more arduous but he will always be remembered for the work he did for the choir and the Sunday School at the Wesleyan Church."

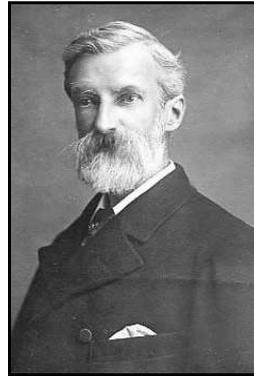


The company's premises in the cattle market

After the funeral, a columnist in the *Stamford Mercury* wrote the following tribute which was published on Friday 6th February 1931: "His death has bereft the town of Bourne of the most able of all its public men and one who still had the faculty for much good in the days ahead. What few faults he had were of the lovable type and they were eclipsed by his invariable kindness and his capacity for good deeds. As I turned from his last resting place, a friend remarked: 'We have just laid away one of the best and straightest men who ever lived' and another remarked 'Our family has lost the best friend we ever had. He went through life seeing how much he could do.' His constant readiness to associate himself with the weaker side is illustrated by an incident which occurred one Friday when he was on his way home by train from Stamford market. In the carriage were two acquaintances, one of whom persisted in bullying the other, a much more subdued specimen of humanity. Mr Rickard tolerated it until his endurance gave out and then he turned on the aggressive one and commanded him to be quiet and cease his torments and his insults. So warm did he become that a passenger in one corner remarked: 'Now Tom, don't forget you're a Christian.' 'Aye, and mine's muscular Christianity', rejoined Tom, and peeling off his coat, he remarked to the aggressor: 'And if you don't keep quiet I'll let you have some of it.' The rest of the journey was passed in peace!"

William Redshaw

1865-1943



Photography as a tool to record social change was not taken seriously when it appeared on the scene in the 19th century and yet it is through this medium that we can see the images of times past and get a glimpse of the way it was. One of the early pioneers of this new art form in Bourne was William Redshaw who concentrated primarily on portrait photographs to please his clientele but also took many pictures of the town that survive to this day to remind us of how much it has changed.

The Redshaw family originated at Heckington in Lincolnshire where in the late 18th century, James Redshaw (the name was then spelled Redeshaw) was a yeoman, saddler and shopkeeper who married Mary Burton and they had nine children. The eldest, John, who was born in 1761, moved to Bourne and married Elizabeth Dewey on 20th July 1789 and began in business as a saddler at premises in North Street. John was one of the first Methodist leaders in Bourne and was a member of the Bourne circuit from its inception in 1808. The Rev Thomas Cocking, in his book *The History of Wesleyan Methodism in Grantham and its Vicinity* (1836) wrote: "He was a man of strict integrity and industrious habits, had a kind and peaceable disposition and an unassuming manner. John Redshaw's house [in North Street] was the local preacher's home for a number of years and John and his wife made great efforts to ensure their guest's comfort."

Two young men were brought to God while serving as apprentices to the Redshaws, no doubt due to the influence of their employers upon them. Later in their lives, both were called to the ministry, one of them, James Taylor, was recorded in 1836 as travelling in the Ringwood circuit and the other, John Gillison, served as a missionary in West Africa until his death in 1820. John Redshaw died in 1834 and the business was taken over by his son, Thomas Redshaw (1793-1874), and then by his son John Redshaw (1823-1895). John married Elizabeth Hardwick and they had four children, among them William Redshaw who was the only one to survive.

The saddlery business that James had founded was eventually taken over by his son Thomas Redshaw and although he was declared bankrupt on 26th December 1843, the business survived and he managed to pay off his debts. By 1851, he was described as a saddler, leather cutter and general dealer, and living at the premises in North Street with his second wife Phoebe and his son John, also a saddler. By 1856, the business had become Thomas Redshaw and Son and when Thomas died in 1874, John took over the saddlery business and his wife Elizabeth opened a fancy goods repository at the same premises which by then extended behind North Street and into Burghley Street. Their son, William Henry Redshaw, was born on 23rd June 1856 and although he was brought up in the saddlery trade, the occupation did not appeal to him but photography did and in 1874, at the age of 18, he decided to set up his own business, using his father's

Fifty brief lives

premises in North Street. Photography was still in its infancy and regarded by most people as little more than a passing phase, but his studios were an immediate success.

The majority of the photographs taken commercially at this time were portraits and callers to Redshaw's studios would pose against backdrops of fruit, flowers and trees to have their likeness taken before he would retire to his purpose built darkroom in the garden behind the shop to develop and print the results. The most popular form of portraiture at this time was the carte de visite, a small piece of pasteboard, measuring 4in. by 2½in., although there were variations in size, and containing the photograph of the sitter and the trade name of the photographer, usually engraved in an ornamental script.

There were of course enlargements for the family album but the main purpose of the sitting was usually to produce a number of cartes de visite to be presented by the sitter on special occasions as a memento of a precious encounter. They exuded sentimentality and put the sitter at their best with the most fashionable items from their wardrobe, moustache waxed, bow tie exact, the latest hat properly pinned, hair in fashion with ribbons to match the new dress and children in their Sunday best. An appointment with the photographer was an appointment with vanity and William Redshaw soon learned how to flatter his clients.



William Redshaw's shop in North Street

Redshaw also perfected his own photographic dark room for developing and printing his film, a tall, slender structure rather like a Victorian garden privy, but nonetheless effective, with fitted shelves, racks for the bottles of chemicals and slides and sinks for the developing process. Photography was becoming popular as a hobby for those who could afford it and friends asked if he could provide them with a similar structure that could be positioned in the back garden where the husband could pursue his hobby without disturbing the household.

Business began to boom and Redshaw spotted another retail outlet and started to expand his activities with the sale of his now famous portable photographic dark rooms with another inventive idea: rustic furniture for gardens and parks with a lighter range of items suitable for halls, libraries, dining and drawing rooms. His range of "Old English garden furniture" was wide, using timber cut straight from the woods for the manufacture of summer houses and seats, tables, window boxes, gates, screens, arches,

Fifty brief lives

pergolas and even dog kennels. Everything was made to order at his workshop in Burghley Street where there was also a showroom to display his wares.

By 1885, he had founded the firm of W H Redshaw and Son although the original premises had been extended at the rear and into Burghley Street to accommodate the new ventures and when his father, John Redshaw, died in 1895, the saddlery business that had made it all possible had been abandoned. But photography was Redshaw's all consuming passion and as the sales of rustic furniture declined, he concentrated more on this side of the business which by 1913 was his main concern although a fancy goods repository still remained but it was now being run by his second wife, Mrs Jane Redshaw.

William Redshaw had married twice, first to Mary Ann Amelie Crook and then to Mary Jane Vinter, and had three children by each of his wives. His eldest son was William Harold Redshaw (1888-1971) who began work as a boy with his father as an apprentice photographer but preferred tinkering with cars and eventually left to become a motor mechanic with T W Mays and Sons Ltd, the fellmongers and tanners. He married a local girl, Sarah Ellen Hemsall in 1913 and she died in 1968. Their only son Raymond (1914-1968) was also a motor mechanic.

After retiring from the business in 1930, William continued to pursue his other interests, mainly music, and he played a number of instruments with equal accomplishment including the piano, organ, harp and violin, and in his younger days had formed a drum and fife band that had become well known for its public appearances at concerts and public parades in the district. He was also actively connected with a nigger minstrel group, a troupe of performing artistes playing banjos and singing in the manner of the traditional black minstrels that had become popular during the period but is no longer considered fashionable or acceptable today because of the mores of political correctness. Redshaw also loved growing flowers and vegetables and spent hours in the garden of his home at No 41 George Street, Bourne, and was a frequent prize winner when he exhibited his produce at local shows.

Apart from his photographs of Bourne, Redshaw was best known during his later years for his remarkable likeness to the celebrated Irish dramatist George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) who was his contemporary, being born in the same year. Redshaw, like Shaw, had a striking appearance, almost identical in looks and bearing, tall, always smartly dressed and with a grey beard that added to his distinguished demeanour, and he never disguised his pleasure at being mistaken for the great writer and social reformer which occurred on many occasions.

Redshaw died at home on Monday 24th May 1943 at the age of 86. His second wife Jane survived him, as did his three sons and three daughters. Unusually, the funeral service was not held in church but at his house in George Street and was conducted by the Rev E S France, the local Methodist minister, and afterwards he was buried in the town cemetery. Many of the photographs that he took of the town have been preserved and some of his street scenes captured during the late 19th and early 20th century are frequently reproduced and for this vision of the years that have gone, we can thank William Redshaw.

Cecil Walker Bell 1868-1947



A solicitor by profession, Cecil Walker Bell was a member of an old established family of lawyers which practised in Bourne for 150 years. He was also a part-time soldier who was proud of his army commission.

The influential legal firm which played such an important part in the life of the town was founded in 1820 by William David Bell who had offices and a house at No 18 West Street, a property that still bears stone plaques built into the rear and side walls with the initials WDB and the dates 1834 and 1847, the years of construction and a later extension. He was born at Uppingham, Rutland, and moved to Bourne in 1820 to establish the family law firm, becoming the first clerk to the Board of Guardians in 1834 and later Registrar of the County Court.

He died in 1857 at the age of 59. By then the business was being run by his son, James Leonard Bell, who was living at Bourne House in West Street, a property he eventually bought as a family home from the estate of John Lely Ostler in 1861 for £800. But in 1890, ill health forced James to hand over the business to his son, Cecil Walker Bell, then aged 22, and like them, he eventually held many of the leading public legal posts in the town, including that of coroner for South Lincolnshire, being appointed in 1925.

He commanded H Company, the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, the Lincolnshire Regiment, for 11 years, joining the unit in 1895 when he was gazetted a second lieutenant, becoming a first lieutenant the following year, then captain in 1899 and he was promoted to major in 1906 when he was replaced because his rank was too high for that of a company commander. He was proud of his commission and preferred to be known as Major Bell for the rest of his life, serving as recruiting officer for the Bourne, Spalding, Holbeach and Long Sutton areas during the Great War of 1914-18.

Cecil Bell was also popular with his men as was demonstrated at the annual dinner of H Company held at the Corn Exchange on Friday 28th September 1906, an event which coincided with his promotion to major and the announcement of his forthcoming marriage on October 6th, when he was presented with a pair of silver candlesticks on behalf of the NCOs and men. The following Tuesday, another presentation to mark his marriage was made by members of the Bourne Institute when he was given a standard

Fifty brief lives

lamp and tributes were paid to his role in helping with the formation and running of the organisation, either as a member of the committee or as the honorary secretary.

His other appointments during his career included those of clerk to Bourne Rural District Council, the Bourne sub-committee of Kesteven Local Pension Committee, the Board of Guardians and Assessment Committee, the School Attendance Committee, the Bourne, South Fen and Thurlby Fen Pastures Drainage Trustees, Superintendent Registrar for Bourne, correspondent to Bourne Education Committee, secretary of the Corn Exchange and the Bourne Gas and Coke Company, Registrar and High Bailiff for the County Court, and clerk to South Kesteven Rural District Council. He was also one of the first governors of Bourne Grammar School and was appointed a trustee of the Butterfield Hospital in 1921.

The list of appointments, similarly held by his father and grandfather, is indicative of the varied demands which might be made on a man with specialised professional training in a small town community at that time and also illustrates the rapid growth of public bodies at local level in Victorian and Edwardian England.

From boyhood, Cecil Bell had wanted to go into the church but circumstances prevented it and he became a lawyer, eventually joining the family firm. He lived at Bourne House, No 46 West Street, the family home since 1830, having spent his entire life in the town and apart from his professional involvement, he was actively connected with the Abbey Church, where he sang with the choir for 40 years until he resigned at Christmas 1932 when the vicar, Canon John Grinter, gave him written notice after a dispute. From 1914, he was a member of the Diocesan Conference and for 12 years served on the Diocesan Trust and Board of Finance as well as being involved with the work of several diocesan committees. Major Bell was a lay reader at the Abbey Church and was elected people's warden in January 1933.

An indication of the high esteem in which the Bell family were held in the town came at a meeting of the Bourne Union on Thursday 24th March 1892. Cecil Bell's father, James Leonard Bell, had retired as Clerk to the Board of Guardians two years before and as his son was still studying to be a solicitor, there was a tacit understanding that he would be appointed as soon as he qualified, which he had done by this time. Mr Alexander Farr, a solicitor with the family firm who had been appointed clerk during the interim period, was resigning and Mr W Hayes proposed that Cecil Bell be elected to replace him. "By his industry, courtesy and ability, he is eminently situated for the position", he said. His motion was seconded by Mr Bacon who said: "I am confident that we will find Mr Bell excellently qualified to conduct our business." Cecil Bell was unanimously elected and made a suitable reply, thanking members for placing him in the position that had been occupied by both his father and grandfather. "I hope that I will be able to fulfil my duties as ably as they have done," he said.

This post was a particularly lucrative one with a salary of £115 a year, plus an additional £50 for the clerkship to the Sanitary Authority, £50 for the clerkship to the Assessment Committee and £15 for the School Attendance Committee, making a total annual salary of £230 [£15,000 at today's values], for what was, in effect, a part time job. It is also worth remembering that Mr Thomas Lawrance, chairman of the Board of Guardians, who conducted the meeting, was in fact his first cousin. An interest in youth activities led to his appointment as a District Commissioner for Scouts and a vice-chairman of the Bourne and district Scout Association. Cecil Bell was also a talented musician and singer,

Fifty brief lives

frequently appearing on stage during concerts and other entertainments in the town, and in 1924 he was honorary musical conductor for the Bourne Amateur Operatic Society. In the same year, he was elected as a member of the Diocesan branch of the Church Music Society, serving for a spell on its committee. The Bourne Operatic Society was also one of his great interests, directing and conducting many musical productions such as Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Yeoman of the Guard* which was presented at the Corn Exchange on Wednesday 20th April 1892, an ambitious attempt by local amateurs but one that was received with great enthusiasm.

The affection he felt for his home town was always apparent, especially so when he addressed the Bourne Institute after the wedding presentation on Tuesday 2nd October 1906 when he said: "I have always been struck by the happy family feeling that generally exists in Bourne and which I have noticed is absent from so many other places that I have visited. Life in such small towns is only worth living by all being good friends and neighbours."

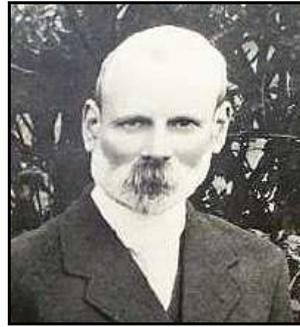
But his words were to prove ironic because following a libel hearing in June 1933, when he was sued for damages by the vicar, he resigned as people's warden and never again went to the Abbey Church, preferring to worship with the non-conformist communities in the town, mainly at the Methodist Chapel. In his declining years, he left Bourne in 1940 and never returned, retiring to Eastbourne where he died on Friday 7th February 1947, aged 78, leaving a widow, a son and a daughter. Both children were qualified solicitors, his son, Colonel F C L Bell, also having a distinguished career during the Second World War and his daughter, Mrs B Holm, then living in the United States, had in 1931, as Miss Edith Elfrida Mary Bell, become the only lady solicitor in Lincolnshire by passing the final examination of the Law Society.

Bourne House had already been sold to Kesteven District Council who turned it into a children's hostel but the property later changed hands again and in 1988 was sold to developers who converted it into a complex of retirement bungalows and flats for the elderly in which use it continues today.



Bourne House today

Frederick Sones
1871-1934



There are many people in past years who have served the community and are often forgotten when they have gone. They are rarely remembered in public places, except perhaps the odd street name, yet we still benefit from the work they did. Such a man was Frederick Henry Sones who died on Friday 13th April 1934 at the age of 62. Typical of the tributes was this from the *Stamford Mercury* newspaper: "It is with profound regret that we record his death because not only Bourne, but the country of Kesteven has lost a gentleman with a fine public record. He was a man of many parts and unbounded energy who devoted a large portion of his time to public service and was identified with innumerable organisations throughout a wide area."

Mr Sones was a local man who was born in the town on 13th December 1871. He became a qualified accountant who spent every spare moment on his public work for the church and the community and his deep and abiding interest in education was instrumental in the founding of the present Bourne Grammar School in 1920. His most prominent work was in connection with Kesteven County Council and Bourne Urban District Council, being a member of both authorities. In fact, he had been re-elected for a further period of three years on the county council only a month before his death.

For almost thirty years, Mr Sones acted as the Collector of Rates for Bourne UDC until he resigned the post in 1929 when he was elected a member of the authority. His experience in accountancy and money matters was then utilised by the committees dealing with financing and rating, and gas and water, and he was also one of the council's representatives on the local ambulance committee. Since 1921, he had been the income tax collector for the urban district and was also secretary of the General Johnson Lodge of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows and had been secretary of the Bourne and District Liberal Club since its formation in 1903. For many years too, he had been secretary of the Rutland and Stamford Divisional Liberal Association and was one of the representatives of the Bourne Friendly Societies Joint Committee on the Bourne United Charities and was a past chairman of the Charity Trustees.

At the time of his death, he was vice chairman of the Higher Education Committee on Kesteven County Council, having played a prominent role in educational matters for Bourne. He was also a manager of the council school in the town and was appointed county council visitor to the schools both in Bourne and Dyke. During the years following the First World War from 1914-18, he was an energetic worker for the establishment of Bourne Grammar School and was subsequently a governor and then vice-chairman of the governors, a position he held until his death.

Mr Sones was also a member of the North Fen and Dyke Fen Drainage Board, a director and chairman of the Bourne Corn Exchange Company, a member of the South Kesteven

Fifty brief lives

Guardians Committee and county council representative on the Rauceby Mental Hospital Visiting Committee. During the Great War he was a member of the Local Defence Volunteers, an early version of the Home Guard, and he also served at the Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital that was established in the Vestry Hall and adjoining National School in North Street where wounded soldiers brought home from the trenches were sent to convalesce. His other offices included that of local district secretary of the Royal Oak Benefit Society and in 1931, he was elected to serve on their general committee while in June 1933, he became vice president and in accordance with the general custom, would have succeeded to the presidency later in 1934, which was the highest honour the society could bestow. He was a member of the Volunteer Training Corps and one of the local secretaries organising celebrations for the coronation of King George in 1911, an original member of the Bourne Juvenile Employment Committee formed in 1922 and from 1916 he was assistant secretary of the National Association of Corn and Agricultural Merchants.

In the year 1919-20, when over £700 was raised for the new wing of the Butterfield Hospital in Bourne as a memorial to those who fell in the war, Mr Sones was honorary secretary to the Bourne Permanent Peace Fund. He was also a member of the executive committee when Bourne made a special effort at the time of the building of the War Memorial Hospital at Peterborough and was a prime fund raiser to help with the local hospital at Bourne. Despite these wide ranging activities, Mr Sones was also a freelance journalist and the Bourne correspondent for several local and regional newspapers, contributing weekly news reports as well as providing a regular service of the more important news items to two London news agencies, the Press Association and Central News and to a large number of provincial newspapers in the Midlands including the Yorkshire Post and the Sheffield Telegraph. He was also a proficient shorthand writer and took the official transcripts at the Kesteven Quarter Sessions which then alternated between Sleaford, Bourne and Stamford. He also had a spell as a businessman and for ten years was a partner in the firm of Messrs Tolly, McCann and Company, feather merchants of Billingborough.

But above all, Mr Sones was a devout congregationalist and had maintained a lifelong connection with the church and Sunday School in Eastgate, being a former church secretary and was a deacon at the time of his death. For some 46 years, he had been a Sunday School teacher and later superintendent of the school as well as being instrumental in organising annual collections for the Claremont Mission in London, the last of which took place the day before his funeral. He was a former president of the Bourne and District Free Church Council and also of the Lincolnshire County Congregational Union and the year before his death, he had been elected a life member on the executive of the county union.

His death was unexpected. Early in 1934, he returned to his home at Rutland Cottage No 1 North Road from a trip to London with the trustees of the United Charities, and noticed that his right foot had swollen where a sprig from the sole of his shoe had punctured the flesh. Blood poisoning set in and he was rushed to Peterborough War Memorial Hospital where he died three days later. He left a widow, Lizzie, who died on 18th November 1953 at the age of 83, and a family of three sons and two daughters. Their youngest son, Flight-Sergeant Frederick Ryland "Roy" Sones, a bomb navigator with the Royal Air Force, died on 4th June 1943 while on active service in India where his plane crashed on take off.

Richard Pattison

1879-1959



During the years following the Great War of 1914-18, Remembrance Sunday was observed by a lone bugler who sounded the last post from the market place, now the town centre. He was Richard Pattison, bandmaster of the last Bourne Town Band, a versatile musician, playing many instruments as well as the trumpet, cornet and bugle, although failing sight made it impossible for him to continue the tradition and in 1956, the present war memorial was built in South Street and this has been the central point for the ceremony ever since.

Richard Newton Pattison was born in 1879, one of seven sons of Mr and Mrs Richard Newton Pattison, of Bedehouse Bank, Eastgate, Bourne, and after attending school locally trained with his father to become a master tailor, later working on his own account from premises in Meadowgate at the corner of North Street. He was a veteran of the Great War, having enlisted with the Royal Flying Corps, later transferring to the Royal Air Force when it was formed in April 1918. Five of his brothers also saw military service, the sixth being rejected several times when trying to enlist because he had flat feet, and one of them was killed. He was Lance Corporal Ralph Pattison of the 1st Battalion, the Lincolnshire Regiment, who lost his life on 3rd July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme and is commemorated on the war memorial in Bourne.

In 1924, Richard Pattison was one of the four war veterans who met at Baldock's Mill to found the Bourne branch of the British Legion and from then on became a stalwart worker for ex-servicemen in the town but is best remembered for re-forming the Bourne Town Band and becoming bandmaster in 1921 and which remained in being until the beginning of the Second World War in 1939. He married Beatrice Maud Odell (born 1887), an experienced tailoress, who was an invaluable assistant but unfortunately, they suffered a major setback when their premises in Meadowgate were burned down in 1922. Richard was living above the shop at the time with his wife and five children but all survived the blaze.

Unfortunately, he was not insured and was declared bankrupt although he continued tailoring for a time from a room in the Angel Hotel. A public subscription list was opened in the town to help him over his financial difficulties and enable him continue in business and eventually the family were allocated a council house in Recreation Road. But he never fully recovered from the shock of the blaze and his sight began to deteriorate and his general health declined and it was left to Mrs Pattison to earn what she could from her tailoring to keep the family. Beatrice died in 1958, aged 71, and Richard in 1959, aged 80, and they are buried together in the town cemetery but he has not been forgotten because the bugle he played each Remembrance Sunday has been preserved by his daughter, Miss Violet Pattison, at her home in Harrington Street.

Lilian Whyles
1885-1975



The entry of women into the British police force was a slow process but it was a Bourne woman who played a major part. Lilian Wyles, daughter of a local brewer, not only became one of the first female police officers but also the first to become a member of the CID with the Metropolitan Police where she served for 30 years.

Lilian Mary Elizabeth Wyles was born on 31st August 1885, only daughter of Joseph and Florence Wyles. Her father had aspirations to become a barrister but was obliged to enter the family business, having moved from Grantham to take over the Star Brewery in Manning Road, until then run by Robert James Shilcock, and it later became known as the Bourne Brewery Limited. The family had a house at 145 West Street where they lived in some style with a cook, housemaid and nursemaid to look after Lilian and her younger brother Arthur. They subsequently moved to Peterborough and then to London, always retaining a middle class respectability.

She had a formal education at a private school, Thanet Hall at Margate in Kent, followed by a finishing school in Paris and then began studying for a career in law but was interrupted by the outbreak of the Great War in 1914. She began hospital work as her contribution to the war effort but was taken seriously ill in 1917 and went to South Africa to recuperate. She returned the following year and became involved with the National Union of Women Workers, organised by Mrs Sofia Stanley, which was organising women police patrols to protect and assist young girls attracted to London from the provinces where they became prey to sexual exploitation, prostitution and exposure to drugs.

Lilian joined the organisation in June 1918 and when the war ended in November, the street patrols were taken over by the Metropolitan Police. She was one of 25 women who began training for the new role and her official record describes her as: "Lilian Mary Elizabeth Wyles, height 5 ft 5 in, warrant number 23, Woman Patrol No 4, officially joined as an unattested Women Patrol on 17th February 1919."

In March, she was promoted to sergeant with responsibility for Central London and the East End which was notorious for vice and low life but despite the risks, the women had no powers of arrest and no pension rights. In addition, the force had no idea what they should wear but eventually, the first 25 recruits were fitted out with uniforms designed and made by Harrods, the London department store, and Lilian is pictured right wearing hers. She soon gained a reputation for diligence, efficiency and good sense, and on 8th January 1921 she was again promoted, this time to inspector second class. Her success indicated that an acceptance of the need for female officers appeared to be going smoothly until early in 1922 when the government announced its intention to disband the patrols. This turn of events had been inevitable. The employment of women police

Fifty brief lives

patrols in an official capacity had been agreed by Sir Neville Macready, the Home Secretary and Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, only on an experimental basis, a trial that could be abandoned at any time which probably accounts for the restriction in their powers. Refusing to go down without a fight, Lilian and her superiors vigorously petitioned all concerned that they should stay and eventually it was decided that 25 of them would be retained as women officers, this time with the same rights as those given to their male counterparts.

Lilian was one of those who were re-engaged on 27th December 1922 with the rank of inspector and at the same time, she became a permanent member of the Criminal Investigation department, the CID, the first in the history of the Metropolitan Police. She received a further promotion to Woman Detective Inspector First Class on 18th February 1935 and was also awarded six official commendations for her work on cases involving prostitution, indecency, incest and abortion.

She left the force on 16th February 1949 and soon afterwards was awarded the British Empire Medal by King George VI in recognition of her thirty years of dedicated service although it was a career she did not particularly seek. "I am perfectly sure that I did not in the least want to be a policewoman", she wrote later. "In fact at the time, I had no real desire to be anything in particular."

The incentive to join the police force could not have been financial, especially from someone of Lilian's social standing, because the pay for women patrol sergeants was a mere £2 2s. a week together with a 12s. a week war bonus. "The money would not have been an inducement to anyone", she said later. "If asked to live on the pittance I was to receive, I would have said it was impossible to do so. It was useful pocket money, no more."

Her career had been a distinguished one, in spite of the hostility she faced from male colleagues, graphically described in her autobiography, *A Woman at Scotland Yard - Reflections on the struggles and achievements of thirty years in the Metropolitan Police*, and published by Faber and Faber in 1952. At the time of her departure, women had become firmly entrenched in the CID and from one lone woman, there was then a permitted strength of 48 while the Special Branch had two women officers. She wrote:

A secure position has been made for the women of the CID. They have been able to step into positions waiting to be filled, their duties are clear cut and defined, and they are accepted. They cannot understand how hard was the birth, how slow the growth of privileges they now enjoy. The venture has come to full stature; it blossoms and expands; it is time for those who had passed through all the early stages to go; to sit back; to watch others guide the child now grown to maturity to further and still further development. Perhaps the thirty years of struggle, work, and often disappointment, had not been fruitless years and my efforts had not been in vain.

Lilian never married and retired to the West Country where she died in Cornwall [her mother, formerly Florence G Borlase, had been born at Falmouth in 1854] on 13th May 1975 at the age of 89.



Kate Cooke
1896-1978

Everitt Cooke
1895-1964



The success of voluntary effort depends entirely on the calibre of those who participate and in Bourne during the 20th century one person's dedication stands out above all the rest because Kate Cooke was always on hand to provide guidance and practical help in a wide range of ventures for the good of the community. Her outstanding work was recognised in 1953 when she was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List in recognition for her public service.

She was born Kate Elizabeth Andrew on 9th August 1896 into an old Bourne farming family that claimed descent from the Lincolnshire explorer Sir Joseph Banks, and educated at a private school for ladies in Stamford where she excelled in music, singing and playing the piano with some accomplishment. Sport was also a favourite pursuit, becoming captain of the school hockey team and later playing for Bourne Town where she was spotted and selected to play for the Lincolnshire side at county level. Tennis was also a favourite game which led to the captaincy of the Bourne Tennis Club.

After leaving school, one of her first tasks was to join the Conservative Party which was to be a lifelong passion, later becoming the first lady chairman of the Rutland and Stamford Divisional Conservative Association, serving in many capacities and always to the fore at election time, especially at Parliamentary level. She also founded the annual Conservative bazaar held at Stamford and worked as its chairman, an event which raised a considerable amount of money for party funds over the years.

But politics was only a small part of a wider involvement with the community and during the Great War, she worked as a VAD nurse at the military hospital set up by the Red Cross at the Vestry Hall in North Street, a dedicated act by the town which cared for almost 950 wounded soldiers from the front between 1914-18. As a result of her work, Kate was awarded a Red Cross medal that was presented by the Countess of Ancaster in 1922 when those who had also participated were similarly honoured. Further patriotic effort followed during the Second World War of 1939-45 when she became centre organiser for the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS), an organisation that played an important role on the home front and her work as billeting officer for hundreds of evacuees who were sent here to escape the bombings in their home towns was a major achievement in her career.

She also found time for local government affairs, sitting as a member of Bourne Urban District Council and for a spell, as chairman of the housing committee, for education, serving as a governor of Bourne Grammar School and for her religion, being elected a member of the Bourne Parochial Church Council. She also found time to appear on stage in performances by the Bourne Amateur Operatic Society and was devoted to a succession of dogs, mainly poodles and smooth-haired terriers, and blue Persian cats.

Fifty brief lives

There were many accolades for her untiring efforts and apart from her well-earned MBE, a lifetime spent in serving the Conservative Party was acknowledged in the summer of 1972 by the Bourne Tory Women's Tea Club which she had founded and had recently retired as its chairman when, during the annual open meeting on Friday 16th June she was presented with an illuminated address signed by the Prime Minister, Edward Heath. The document was handed over by Kenneth Lewis, MP for the Rutland and Stamford constituency which then included Bourne, who spoke of her stalwart support for the party. "This document represents our esteem, love and affection for Mrs Cooke and the appreciation by the party leadership", he said. "Thank you for all you have done for us." Mrs Cooke was deeply moved. "I do thank you all very much", she replied, "and I shall value this for the rest of my life. If I had it over again I would do the same as I have done." She then received a standing ovation.

By this time Mrs Cooke was a widow. In 1920 she had married local landowner and farmer, Everitt Delanoix Cooke (born 15th October 1895), and they lived at the Manor House in the Austerby, where they had two children, a daughter Joy, born in 1925 and a son Andrew, born in 1927. Mr Cooke farmed in his own right from the age of 20, except for a break during the Great War when he was one of the early volunteers for service, being commissioned in the Lincolnshire Yeomanry and subsequently posted to France and Egypt. He was with the regiment on the troopship Mercian when it was torpedoed in the Mediterranean.

After the war, he returned to farming, extending his operations in the North and South Fens at Bourne, Deeping Fen, Tongue End, Aslackby and at Knaptoft, Market Harborough in Leicestershire, and as a result his eventual agricultural interests involved more than 4,000 acres. He was also founder and head of the firm E D and A D Cooke (Farms) Ltd and also chairman of E D Cooke Birmingham (Potatoes) Ltd with which he was associated for 25 years. As a young man, he became active in local affairs being elected to Bourne Urban District Council and nominated in 1927-28 as one of the youngest chairmen at the age of 31 and was an enthusiastic member of the National Farmers Union, serving as chairman of the Bourne branch, and of the Christmas Fatstock Show, and as a staunch Tory, he became chairman of the Bourne branch of the Conservative Association for a spell.

Mr Cooke was a member of the Deeping Fen and Black Sluice Drainage Boards and chairman of the Bourne Society for the Prosecution of Felons. At one time, he was also a breeder of shire horses and built up a prestige herd of pedigree Lincoln Red cattle as well as a racing stable which achieved a considerable amount of success. He suffered from diabetes for 30 years which resulted in several spells in hospital and in December 1963 he was admitted to Guy's Hospital in London but returned to the active management of his business affairs. Shortly afterwards, on Friday 3rd January 1964, he was backing his car out of the garage at the Manor House ready for a business trip to Spalding when he suffered a heart attack and collapsed and died at the wheel, the vehicle crashing through the shrubbery and into a cherry tree. He was 69.

Mrs Cooke continued with her voluntary work but was dogged by ill health in her closing years and she died, aged 82, in a care home at Uppingham, Rutland, on Saturday 19th August 1978. Their son, Andrew died in hospital at King's Lynn in 2007, aged 80, after a long illness and their daughter, Joy, emigrated to Canada in 1957 where she still lives.



Horace Stanton
1897-1977

One of the most influential people in Bourne during the mid-20th century was Horace Stanton who held several important public appointments in the town and also commanded the Home Guard during the Second World War.

Horace Mills Alderson Stanton was born on 23rd October 1897, the second son of William Edwin Stanton, a doctor, of Stamford Road, Market Deeping, and educated at the Barton School, Wisbech, leaving to become a trainee with a firm of solicitors in Peterborough. His studies were interrupted by the Great War of 1914-18 when he was commissioned in the Royal Artillery and subsequently served in India and Persia, attaining the rank of lieutenant but after leaving the army, returned to his legal studies and qualified as a solicitor in July 1921. He joined the law practice of his father-in-law, Mr Stephen Andrews, with chambers at No 11 North Street [now Andrews, Stanton & Ringrose] and when Mr Andrews died in 1925, he took over the practice and assumed many of his public appointments including clerkships to the town's magistrates, the Association for the Prosecution of Felons, Bourne United Charities, the governors of Bourne Grammar School, four internal drainage boards and the Trustees and Steward of the Manor of Bourne Abbots. He was also district coroner for 22 years and although he retired from his law practice in November 1959, he held this post until March 1963, together with many of his other appointments until finally relinquishing the last in 1974.

At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, he took charge of the Civil Defence report centre in Bourne and then on its formation, he became second in command of the 4th Bourne and Stamford Battalion of the Home Guard but when the battalion commander retired because of ill health, he succeeded him in February 1941 when the unit became the 4th Kesteven Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment and he remained in command until the unit stood down in December 1944. During the war, he also served as secretary of the Kesteven War Agricultural Executive Committee for the Bourne area.

Mr Stanton married a childhood friend, Dorothy Larken Andrews, daughter of Bourne solicitor Stephen Andrews, at the Abbey Church on 26th June 1923 and for most of their married life they lived in a substantial William and Mary period home at No 20 North Road where the grounds contained the largest weeping ash in England. The house was demolished in 1990 to make way for a new housing development known as Maple Gardens. Fifty years after their wedding, the couple celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary with a party at their home for 70 guests that included seven members of the original congregation.

Both were keen tennis players and Mr Stanton also played football for Bourne Town Football Club in a soccer career that lasted for more than 30 years. Mrs Stanton also took a keen interest in local affairs, serving as a governor of Bourne Grammar School for 32

Fifty brief lives

years, a trustee of Bourne United Charities and she also worked with the Red Cross during the Second World War. It was his clerkship to the local charities that gave him the utmost pleasure and interest and it was on his advice that the trustees acquired the Abbey Lawn playing fields which he designed himself and where a plaque was unveiled by his daughter Jane in 1970, the open air swimming pool, the War Memorial and Wellhead Gardens in South Street and the Red Hall, and he spared no effort in helping raise money for these causes.

He and his wife were particularly devoted to the preservation of the Red Hall at a time when the future of the 17th century mansion was uncertain and they made substantial donations in 1963 towards the cost of restoration, particularly the long gallery and the adjoining rooms where a plaque remembers their generosity. His other activities reflected a very busy public life for he was at various times secretary of the local Boy Scouts' Association, the parochial church council and he also served as a churchwarden. He was a past president of the Lincolnshire Law Society and the local branch of the Trustee Savings Bank, a past master of the Hereward Lodge of Freemasons, member of Bourne Probus Club, founder member of the Bourne branch of the Royal British Legion and at the time of his death was president of the Witham-on-the-Hill Cricket Club and the Bourne Abbey Tennis Club.

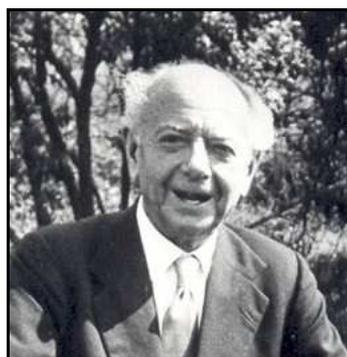
Horace and Dorothy Stanton had two children, a daughter Jane, now Mrs Kenneth Marshall of Horsham, Sussex, and a son, Mr Robert Stanton of Witham-on-the-Hill. One of their five grandchildren, Roger Marshall, played cricket for Sussex. He was also a substantial landowner at Witham-on-the-Hill after inheriting a number of tenanted properties in the will of Thomas Atkinson who died in 1955. He sold Warren Farm and put Home Farm in trust for his wife and grandchildren for 90 years and also transferred Lings Farm to his son Robert who still lives there.

Mr Stanton died on Monday 18th April 1977 at the age of 79. The funeral was held the following week when the Abbey Church was packed for the service conducted by the vicar, the Rev Gordon Lanham, who said in his address that Mr Stanton had learned the lesson of service, serving his country, his profession, the church and the community for nearly 60 years. He recalled the epitaph of Sir Christopher Wren in the words of his son that are inscribed over the north door of St Paul's Cathedral in London which he designed: "If you would see his monument look around" and added: "How true that was of Horace Stanton. The provision of the Memorial Gardens on one side of the church and the Abbey Lawn on the other, with all of its facilities for recreation and pleasure, was due to his foresight so that we and all others who come after us can have the benefit of them. And so we remember him with respect."

No 20 North Road, home of Horace Stanton and his family. The stately William and Mary period stone mansion was demolished in 1990 to make way for the present Maple Gardens housing development.



Raymond Mays 1899-1980



The pioneer of British motor racing, Thomas Raymond Mays, always known as Raymond, brought prestige to Bourne and took this country to the forefront of international competition on the track. He was the son of a local businessman and motoring enthusiast, Thomas William Mays, a wool merchant and fertiliser manufacturer, whose interest was in hill climbs and speed events.

The family residence was an imposing Regency house in Eastgate and a plaque on the front wall reminds us that he was born here on 1st August 1899 and that this was his lifetime home. Twenty years later he owned his first car, a speed model Hillman which was traded in for a Bugatti Brescia called *Cordon Rouge*, after the famous brand of champagne, and a second Bugatti followed, this time called *Cordon Bleu*, after the brandy. The two Bugattis proved quite formidable during the 1924 racing season, sweeping the board in the big hill climb events and creating new records.

The beginning of Raymond's career as a motor manufacturer had begun quietly, almost secretly, at his home in Bourne and few people knew about the venture until it was revealed by the *Stamford Mercury* during 1934, the year English Racing Automobiles, or ERA as it was known, was formed using workshops built on the orchard adjoining Eastgate House.

Motor racing was halted during the Second World War from 1939 to 1945 but by then Mays was pondering on the possibility of an all-British racing car to break the foreign domination of Grand Prix motor racing and so British Racing Motors, or BRM as it came to be known, was formed and financial backing came from leading companies in the field, particularly Rubery Owen and Company Limited and Joseph Lucas Ltd. The first BRM was unveiled and demonstrated to the motoring world at Folkingham airfield on 15th December 1949 when the car was hailed as a world beater, although success was slow in coming. More tuned-up production cars followed and in 1960, new workshops for the development of the BRM were built on the site of the old gasworks in Spalding Road.

There were many failures and some successes. New engines and cars were designed and in 1962, the BRM became the first all-British car to win the world championship and the company's Number One driver Graham Hill, father of the present day Damon, became world champion at the same time. This accolade from world motor racing was marked by a civic reception at the Corn Exchange in March 1963 organised by the old Bourne Urban District Council when Hill was presented with a silver salver for his achievement. Mays himself was to be honoured in 1978 with a CBE for his services to motor racing. By 1965, BRM had 100 employees in Bourne and this was another victorious year when

Fifty brief lives

BRM cars gained either a first or second prize in every Grand Prix race that was held. But after that, their cars had mixed fortunes until the Mexican driver Pedro Rodriguez scored a comeback victory in the 1970 Belgium Grand Prix at Spa. There were further successes but advancement was dogged by mechanical failures and soon after Mays died in 1980, Rubery Owen decided to sell the BRM collection of racing cars and the sale created international interest when it took place during the Motor Show at Earl's Court, London, in October 1981.

The BRM site in Spalding Road was sold for commercial development to Delaine Buses and the workshops are now used as an auction salesroom. Graham Hill was killed when the plane he was piloting crashed near London in 1975 but his name lives on in Bourne in Graham Hill Way, a small industrial estate off Cherryholt Road, where motor racing is alive and well. Pilbeam Racing Designs, which grew from the staff leaving BRM when it closed, is well established there in a £300,000 factory opened in 1997 by Graham's widow Bette.

Motor racing has been much maligned in recent times because the engines on four wheels that now speed around the track bear little resemblance to the motor cars of past times. There is also much criticism of its dependence on tobacco advertising and of sponsorship by petrol, tyre and battery companies. Raymond Mays and his cars were from a different age but it was his enthusiasm and expertise that gave the sport a new impetus in the years following the Second World War.

Raymond Mays however, died on 6th January 1980 with debts of £150,000, his house heavily mortgaged and most of the valuable contents already sold. These included a series of original water colour paintings by the motoring artist Gordon Crosby, showing Raymond Mays in action on the track, that had been bought by a Swiss count with the proviso that they would stay on the walls of Eastgate House until Raymond's death and when this eventually occurred in 1980, they were collected by the owner and shipped to his home in Switzerland. The house itself and what was left of the family estate were eventually sold and the money raised went to help pay his debts.

The funeral was held at the Abbey Church in Bourne which was filled with mourners from the town and the world of motor racing, followed by private cremation at Grantham. There was also a small gathering for tea afterwards at the Angel Hotel when tributes were paid by his motor racing friends and he was also honoured with a national memorial service at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London, on 22nd January.

The Raymond Mays Room at the Heritage Centre in Baldock's Mill in Bourne contains a wealth of memorabilia about the motor racing pioneer such as his goggles, some of his trophies, documents and photographs. The exhibition also remembers all of those who were involved with Raymond Mays in the production of those racing cars that brought prestige to Britain and international motor sport. This is a particularly noteworthy enterprise because it has been financed and executed entirely by volunteers anxious to preserve the name of someone who brought fame to our town. In the summer of 2002, a road on the new Elsea Park residential development, an ambitious £10 million project to the south of the town that will eventually contain 2,000 homes, was named Raymond Mays Way in his honour and a memorial to both Raymond Mays and the town's motor racing connections was erected in South Street in 2003.

Dr John Galletly
1899-1993



One of the most respected and interesting people in Bourne during the last 100 years was Dr John Alexander Galletly who was always known by his preferred name of Alistair. He was a highly qualified and well-liked family doctor and although considered to be a little eccentric in his declining years, he had a depth of knowledge about the people of this town that has been unequalled since.

He may have inherited this trait from his father, also called John, because the few memories we have of him indicate a man of similar temperament and often inclined to follow an unconventional path. Dr John Galletly, senior, was born and educated in Scotland but moved south in the late 19th century to practice in England, having done locum work in Cumberland where he met his wife Caroline. He went originally to Ripplingale in 1890 and lived at Down Hall, also known as the Doctor's House, at a time when ambulances were horse-drawn and emergencies relied on a farmer's cart to transport an injured patient. The doctor's area was also limited to those places that could be reached by a pony and trap or even a bicycle. Seven years later, he took over Dr Brown's practice in North Road, a property that once stood near the present bus station. Their son John was born there on 18th February 1899, the eldest of four children, and when he was seven, the family moved to The Gables, a newly built house at No 40 North Road where the practice remained for the next 70 years.

John was educated at Sleaford Grammar School, travelling there and back from Bourne each day by train, and in 1911 he and his brother Noel and their younger sister Ruth were sent to school at the Lycee de Cherbourg after their father, a frugal Scot, had discovered that he could educate all three in France for the price of one in England, and during his time there, John became a fluent French speaker. From there, he went to Epsom College in Surrey, a school for the sons of doctors, and in the summer of 1917, having been attested for military service on his 18th birthday, he joined the army and was commissioned the following April and sent to the front to join the 7th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment. While in action on September 18th, he was wounded in the right knee and sent back to England and was subsequently discharged in the spring of 1919.

Having decided to finish his studies, John went to Queen's College, Cambridge, to read medicine for three years and he then moved to the Middlesex Hospital in London for clinical training. He qualified MRCS [Member of the Royal College of Surgeons] and LRCP [Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians] in 1925 and obtained his Cambridge degree B Chir [Bachelor of Surgery] in 1926 together with a Diploma in Public Health and a Master of Arts degree. After qualifying, he became a house

Fifty brief lives

physician at the Evelina Children's Hospital in Southwark Bridge Road, London, followed by similar appointments at the Middlesex Hospital where he later obtained his obstetric housemanship under the great gynaecologists of the day, Doctors Berkeley and Bonney.

During the bitter winter of 1927, he returned to Bourne to help his father in general practice and stayed, swapping the routine of hospital life for a daily round of births and deaths, fractures and bruises, extracting teeth and tonsils, dealing with diseases and infections and even mixing his own medicines. From then on, his professional life was spent in the town and when his father died in 1937, he also succeeded him as Medical Officer of Health for South Kesteven

Dr Galletly's interests were wide and varied, particularly in the field of local affairs, becoming a member of Bourne Urban District Council and its chairman in 1961-62, an independent member of Kesteven County Council, being made an honorary alderman in 1974. He was also a trustee of Bourne United Charities, a governor of Bourne Grammar School, vice-president of Bourne British Legion and was awarded the British Legion medal in 1991 for 70 years of loyal service. He was also active with the British Red Cross and St John Ambulance Brigade, becoming one of their senior instructors, and was appointed an Officer Brother of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in 1969. He was also an active member of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and for many years chairman of their local committee and closely involved with the Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust, the Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.



Dr Galletly senior, Mrs Galletly and Dr Ruth Finn

His sister, Mrs Ruth Finn, had also qualified as a doctor and during the Second World War from 1939-45 she ran a second practice in the town while Dr George Holloway of Brook Lodge was serving with the forces. Bourne's population at this time was around 5,000 and they were the only doctors in town. When Dr Holloway returned after the war and resumed his practice, Dr Finn became the Medical Officer of Health for the district.

Dr Galletly combined his professional and public work with a love of gardening and a keen knowledge of local history, becoming an inveterate letter writer to newspapers and magazines on a wide variety of topics but most were usually reminders of times past. During his career, he saw innumerable changes in medicine, new drugs, different methods of treatment, remarkable refinements in surgery and the implementation of the National Health Service in 1948 which he welcomed. He was socially gregarious and numbered the comedian and actor Sir George Robey (1869-1954), dubbed "The Prime Minister of Mirth", among his friends after he had been invited to open a garden fete in

Fifty brief lives

the grounds of his North Road home in 1936 to help raise funds for the Butterfield Hospital. Robey, then plain Mister, was appearing at the Embassy Theatre in Peterborough and came to Bourne with the consent of the management and after an amusing and entertaining speech, he signed photographs for a small fee which went towards the appeal and then toured the hospital.

Even during his final years as a general practitioner, the room at his home that he used as a surgery remained in appearance as it was when he had treated patients there in years past. A Bunsen burner was attached to the wall and a sink with hot and cold taps fitted into his workbench. On the shelves were bottles of acids and other chemicals, all neatly labelled in Latin and it was these ingredients that he used in mixing his own medicines, often using a pestle and mortar. He remembered those times when interviewed in March 1985: "People used to bring their own bottles that I would fill with my medicines. I used to have to pound and pound with the pestle to get the right liquidity. It was easier for patients to swallow a liquid than take a pill. I also used a lot of olive oil to make ointments because it was such a perfect emollient lotion. A lot of my medicines came from herbs. Foxgloves for instance, were used as a heart medicine. I used tannic acid for nose bleeds, eucalyptus for curing coughs, colds and congestion, zinc for making up ointments and magnesium sulphate for bowel problems.

"Once the National Health Service arrived, I could give out prescriptions to everyone and they could collect their medicines from the chemist because there was no charge any more. This was much easier than pounding away with the pestle and writing out bills for patients afterwards. I used to charge about 3s. 6d (17½p in decimal currency) for a bottle of medicine and 5s. (25p) for a medical check-up but it was always double for night jobs although that was usually to deliver a baby. I must have delivered between 50 and 60 babies a year and often had to use forceps when there was a problem. If I got a call to deliver a baby while patients were outside in the waiting room, I used to tell them all to go home and come back next day. I would charge £2 for a rush job like that but everyone got treated in the end. I really loved my work. The sight of blood never bothered me but my stomach did turn at the sight of someone vomiting."

Dr Galletly retired in 1969 when he was 70, having been practising in Bourne for 41 years. After his retirement, the practice was moved to the new clinic in St Gilbert's Road but ironically, the house was refurbished for use as the Galletly Group Practice after his death and some of the old medical instruments that he and his father had used were preserved as a small museum. His interests in medicine, people and the community continued until the end of his life and he maintained a wide circle of loyal friends until his death on 4th April 1993 at the age of 94.

In his retirement years, Dr Galletly admitted that he missed what he called, the old days, and the role of the doctor in today's modern practices. Shortly before his death, he wrote: "The burden of the general practitioner has been lightened very much but is he still as much a member of the community as he used to be? Does he still have to wonder what is meant by 'the vapours' or dissuade a patient from the use of bread as a poultice or even goose grease? And will he find a nice cup of tea and a piece of cake for him after attending a confinement?"



George Holloway 1905-1967

A family doctor with a genial personality and a wide involvement in the community and its administration made Dr George Holloway a prominent character in the life of Bourne during the middle years of the 20th century. He had a reputation as a wit and raconteur and was an impressive mimic, as befitting the half-brother of the actor and comedian Stanley Holloway [they both had the same father], and he usually dominated the company he was in with his forthright views, blunt speaking and good humour.

Dr George Augustus Frank Holloway was born in London on 23rd December 1905 where his step-father was in general practice. On leaving school, he also studied medicine and after qualifying, became a general practitioner at Loughton, Essex, before moving to Bourne in 1938 to take over the practice at Brook Lodge in South Street, then run by Dr William Monteith. He arrived in the town having already been made a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Society of Apothecaries, one of the capital's distinguished livery companies, two unusual achievements at an early age of which he was exceptionally proud for the rest of his life.

Brook Lodge was built as the vicarage for Bourne in 1776 by the Rev Humphrey Hyde who was the incumbent at the Abbey Church from 1763 until 1807, and stands at the end of Church Walk but the frontage is on a bend in South Street. It was replaced by a new vicarage in 1879 and then became Dr John Gilpin's surgery. There was a tiny lean-to at the back of the house that was used as a waiting room and the surgery times were posted by the door over the message box where medicines and prescriptions were put out for collection. The practice later moved to the new health clinic when it opened in St Gilbert's Road in 1971 and thence on to the Hereward Medical Centre in 1998. The house is now converted into flats.

Before Dr Holloway arrived in Bourne, he had joined the Territorial Army in London as a doctor but this patriotic act eventually proved to be detrimental to his professional career because he had hardly become established in Bourne when he was among the first to be called up for military service after the Munich crisis of September 1938, the policy of appeasement by the Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain which led to the outbreak of the Second World War a year later. His war service with the Royal Army Medical Corps began with an attachment to the anti-aircraft defence units around London and soon after war was declared on 3rd September 1939, he was sent to join the 5th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment serving in Europe, taking part in the retreat from Brussels and the subsequent evacuation of Allied troops from the beaches of Dunkirk in the early summer of 1940. Shortly afterwards, he was invalided out of the army with shell shock and resumed his practice in Bourne, only to find that the bulk of his patients had gone to Dr John Galletly in North Road who had also been given most

Fifty brief lives

of the local authority appointments when he and his sister, Dr Ruth Finn, remained the only doctors in the town. He was so angered by the situation that had been created by his absence on active service that he and Dr Galletly never became close friends and although a working relationship continued and they stood in for each other during holiday periods, there was a coolness between them whenever they met.

Despite these setbacks, Dr Holloway soon built up a busy practice and secured several public appointments, serving for three years as an assistant medical officer and school medical officer to Kesteven County Council and as medical officer to the Bourne division of the St John's Ambulance Brigade. But local government became a passion, serving two spells as one of the Bourne members on Kesteven County Council and in 1951, he was elected to Bourne Urban District Council, becoming chairman in 1957-58 and as a former chairman of the county public health committee, was a guiding hand with the extensive re-sewering of Bourne and much-needed extensions to the town's sewage disposal works. His other main interest was in his work as a magistrate, sitting on the Bourne bench of justices from 1960, and he often said that it was his father who wanted him to become a doctor and that as a young man he would rather have studied law and become an advocate.



Brook Lodge in South Street

His other public work was as a member of the Kesteven Executive Health Council, the South Lincolnshire Water Board, Bourne United Charities and as a governor of Bourne Grammar School. Dr Holloway was also actively associated with the Bourne branch of the Royal British Legion and the Hereward Lodge of Freemasons of which he was a past master. He also had a passion for sport, becoming president of the Lincolnshire Rugby Football Union and vice-president of Bourne Cricket Club.

His health in later years began to decline and in 1962, he took a back seat in his council duties because of pressure of work but returned with his full vigour two years later and subsequently made only the minimum concession to his illness. Nevertheless, he knew that he did not have long to serve on Bourne Urban District Council and actually named the successor for his seat, Mrs Marjorie Clark, then landlady of the Nag's Head where he was a frequent customer. He and Mrs Clark regularly discussed local issues whenever he dropped in and one evening late in 1966, with the council elections pending the following spring, he appeared in the lounge as usual but as he left to go home, he put his head round the door and said: "I am dying and will be unable to carry on and so I want

Fifty brief lives

you to take my place when it happens." He did not seek re-election because of his ill health and so Mrs Clark took his place at the hustings and in 1967 was returned unopposed to fill the seat he had vacated.

During Dr Holloway's illness, the bells of the Abbey Church nearby were silenced over the Christmas period in 1966 on the orders of the vicar, Canon Hugh Laurance, who knew that he disliked them, calling them "Heavenly music". He died at Brook Lodge from a heart attack on Tuesday 10th January 1967, aged 61, leaving a widow, Mrs Gladys Holloway, formerly a singer with the D'Oyle Carte Opera Company, and three daughters, two from his previous marriage, his first wife having died shortly before he moved to Bourne. The funeral service was held at the Abbey Church attended by over 400 people. In a short tribute, Canon Laurence, said:

Dr Holloway was held in high esteem and affection, having made his mark on so many aspects of the life in the town and county that probably no one person could be adequate for the task of paying a proper tribute. Wherever he went and whatever he did, his rugged personality made itself felt. He wasted little time on non-essentials and went straight to the heart of a matter in a way which won the confidence of his patients and the respect of those with whom he worked on board or committee. His kind are not easily replaced and his death leaves our town and district immeasurably the poorer. It is out of our own deep sense of loss that we extend our sympathy to his wife and daughters. For a man who always said he had no bedside manner, the respect and love of his patients was the greatest testimony to the worth of the life he lived. The words of one of them best sums up all we would like to say: "We have lost not only a doctor but a friend."

News of Dr Holloway's death reached Bourne Urban District Council shortly before their meeting on January 10th when members stood in silent tribute before their business began. There were similar acknowledgements at later meetings of the Kesteven Executive Health Council in Grantham and at Bourne Magistrates' Court the following Thursday. The chairman of the bench, the Hon Mrs A I Fane, said that Dr Holloway had been a magistrate for six years during which time his interest and advice, and particularly his medical knowledge, had been invaluable. Representatives of the police, the legal profession, the court staff and probation services, all wished to be associated with the chairman's remarks.

There is no memorial to Dr Holloway in Bourne and no tombstone in the town cemetery because he was cremated at Marholm Crematorium, near Peterborough, after the funeral and his ashes were not preserved. But in February 2003, one of his daughters, Mrs Barbara Higglesden of Kingsway, Bourne, submitted his name to be included on the newly restored wheel at the early 19th century Baldock's Mill, the Heritage Centre, along with others who wish to be so remembered. She said: "There is nothing in the town to remind people of his work other than the memories of those who knew him and still talk about him 36 years after his death. The wheel is also not far from his old home on the corner in South Road that was nicknamed Holloway's Corner after him."

Then in the spring of 2004, on the recommendation of Bourne Town Council, one of the streets on the new residential development at the old hospital site in South Street was named Holloway Avenue in his memory.

Thomas (Len) Pick **1909-2004**



The life of Len Pick almost spanned the entire 20th century and was devoted entirely to Bourne, the town he was proud to call home and where he gained a reputation as the leading supporter of Bourne Town Football Club which he followed with enthusiasm as both fan and official for more than 80 years.

Thomas Leonard Pick was born at a cottage in Eastgate on 31st December 1909, the son of Thomas Pick, a farmer and potato merchant, and his wife Frances. He attended the Abbey Primary and then Bourne Grammar School but education, particularly mathematics, was not to his liking and he was glad to leave at the age of 14, going to work for his father who had then set up as a coal merchant. In 1926, at the height of the general strike, he took charge of the business when he was only 16 and the task of emptying wagons shunted into the sidings at Bourne railway station taught him the meaning of hard labour. A few years later he took over his father's wholesale potato business and was soon running a fleet of 14 lorries while his farming interests extended over 500 acres in the nearby fens. In 1935, he married Freda, the girl he met soon after leaving school, with a ceremony at the Abbey Church and they remained together for more than 50 years until her death in 1991 but had no children. They lived in a large house he built for her in Mill Drove in 1951 and after she suffered a stroke and could not manage the stairs any longer, he built her a bungalow in the garden that remained his home after she had died.

Mr Pick was a dedicated member of the community, being elected to Bourne Urban District Council in 1936 and becoming its youngest member at the age of 27. He served on many committees, notably highways, eventually becoming its chairman, but he gave up his council work in 1948 because of the demands of his three businesses. He was a keen sportsman and from an early age bred and raced pigeons from his own loft from 1923 until 1985, becoming chairman then life president of the Bourne Pigeon Racing Club.

But his main love was football and over the years, he won a reputation as the most loyal and dedicated fan of Bourne Town Football Club. He was a founding member of the Supporters' Club and was also instrumental in getting the first concrete stand built at the Abbey Lawn ground and at the time of his death, he had offered land in Meadow Drove

Fifty brief lives

for a new stadium headquarters although the project never materialised and the club remained at the Abbey Lawn with improved premises financed through a bequest in his will. He was created an honorary life member of the club for his support and services and was later elected president and then patron in the two years before his death during which time his interest in the team's progress never wavered and during a spell in hospital for surgery in 2003, he insisted on being kept informed of the results. He also had other interests and his support and financial help for many organisations and charitable causes in the town, notably the Outdoor Swimming Pool, were less well known.

Mr Pick retired in 1975 but always kept busy with his hobbies which included gardening, playing the piano and walking around the town he loved, becoming a familiar figure in his declining years, carrying a stick and wearing an old cap and long raincoat. He also deplored the loss of the old values. "The worst change I have seen is the lack of law and order", he said in a newspaper interview in 1999. "There also seems to be a lot of vandalism but in my day we'd be running scared if ever we saw a policeman."

He died in Peterborough District Hospital on Thursday 29th January 2004, aged 94. The funeral was held the following week at the Abbey Church that was packed with mourners from the town and elsewhere. His housekeeper, Mrs Janet Turner, who worked for him for 16 years, living in his former house in front of the bungalow, said: "He will be remembered as someone who was very generous and full of fun. He had a joke for every occasion." Terry Bates, president of BTFC said in a tribute: "Len Pick was a shrewd, astute and successful businessman, not only in Bourne and district, but also over a much wider area. Len will be very much missed and our community is the poorer for his passing. We are grateful to him for the considerable contribution he has made to all aspects of life in our town."

In July 2004, when the contents of his will were known, it was revealed that Mr Pick had left the bulk of his £4 million estate for the benefit of the town. During his lifetime, he had set up a trust fund to be known as the Len Pick Charitable Trust to be used for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Bourne. The trustees would use their discretion in awarding grants for local organisations and groups but several were singled out for special consideration including the Abbey Church, the Outdoor Swimming Pool, the Darby and Joan Club and the Butterfield Day Care Centre. A spokesman for the trust said: "In making these arrangements, Mr Pick expressed the wish that the town where he earned his living for so many years should benefit and it was only right that he should repay this debt in a tangible manner."

The imposing house in Mill Drove which Len Pick built for his wife, Freda, in 1951. He included a pigeon loft in the back garden to pursue his favourite hobby.





Lorenzo Warner
1901-1995

One man whose enterprise has helped in the progress and prosperity of Bourne despite humble beginnings was Lorenzo Warner. He started his working life as a newspaper delivery boy but the business he founded continues today as Warners Midlands plc, one of the most prestigious printing companies in this part of Britain and still run as a family concern.

Lorenzo, known as Lorry, was born at Devonport, part of Plymouth in Devon, on 1st January 1901, "born with the century" he liked to think and the phrase later became the title of his biography. His father had been a chief petty officer in the Royal Navy and after living at Bristol for a time, he decided that he wanted a change and in 1910 took a job as night watchman at Grimsthorpe Castle, near Bourne, and so when Lorry was nine years old, the family moved to the Keeper's Cottage on the estate at nearby Elsthorpe. He was the eldest of four children and left school at the age of 13 to become an apprentice house painter, employed mainly at Grimsthorpe, but he disliked the work and moved to Ernest Foley's engineering firm in Meadowgate, Bourne. This involved getting up at 5 am each morning for a four-mile walk into town and then back again at night, whatever the weather, but he did it without complaining and learned many skills that were to prove invaluable in later life.

His father, also Lorenzo, was recalled for service with the Royal Navy during the war but money was short at home and so Lorry helped support the family and tried to take his father's place while he was away. These were times of real shortages and the children often went hungry and without decent shoes and clothing. When his father returned after the Armistice, Lorry suggested that he follow his example and join the Royal Navy but he was turned down as unsuitable. Instead, in 1919, he began delivering newspapers for W H Smith to homes in the surrounding villages of Morton, Edenham and Grimsthorpe, a journey that involved a daily cycle ride of 14 miles but despite this onerous task, he felt he could do more and so, with the help of his sister Lily and his younger brother Ernest, he started an additional enterprise by selling rabbits shot in the locality to a firm of game suppliers based in Leicester. The only way they could deliver the dead rabbits was by collecting them from the various farms, hanging them on the handlebars of the bicycles and pedalling to the railway station at Morton where they were packed into baskets and put on to the Leicester-bound train.

The depression that followed the war affected many families and Lorry's father lost his job at Grimsthorpe. He helped for a while with the newspaper deliveries but one day, he left home abruptly, leaving a brief note explaining that he had gone away to find work but he never returned. Lorry was 20 years old and confessed later that he felt deserted.

Fifty brief lives

But his partnership with brother Ernest flourished and Lorry eventually decided that there was more money to be made from newspapers than from rabbits but this too could become more lucrative if he became a distributor himself rather than work for W H Smith and soon he was collecting the newspapers from Essendine, the nearest station on the main line from London, and ensuring that they were delivered well ahead of those from their competitors. The venture started with a weekly turnover of 3s. 9d., working from 4 a m to 7 p m, but the hard work brought its rewards and soon a shop was opened in Bourne and a second at 53 High Street, Stamford, acquired from Greaves and Co in 1925, and by 1927, Warners (Midlands) Ltd was born. The first shop in Abbey Road soon became too small and in 1926, he bought R M Smith and Co at 13 West Street, Bourne, so acquiring larger premises with a printing works at the rear. Ernest, however, decided to emigrate to Canada in September 1928 leaving Lorry to run the business himself and it has thrived ever since.



Lorry Warner outside his Abbey Road shop in 1926

The printing section became so successful that his son Michael joined the company to take over those interests and under his guidance, the business slowly expanded until there was insufficient room in the old West Street premises, even though they had been extended. The newsagent's shop at Stamford was sold to a regional chain, John Menzies (Southern) Ltd in April 1965, and in March 1968, both the wholesale and retail business in Bourne was bought by the same firm. By this time, Michael had become managing director but Lorry, who was then 67, remained chairman and consultant, claiming the record as the longest serving newspaper wholesaler in Britain over a period of 48 years and vowing to spend his forthcoming retirement visiting all of the county cricket grounds which work had prevented him from doing previously.

Constant improvements were made to the printing works in West Street but expansion was inevitable and in 1973-74, the company bought the Old Maltings further along the street where the latest technology and machinery was installed, a programme of improvement that has continued ever since while the newspaper business was sold off in 1966 to allow the firm concentrate on its emerging business.

Lorry remained active until well into his eighties and was busy at the works most days. He was also a life-long member of the Methodist Church and served as a trustee to many local chapels and was for a number of years a circuit steward of the church in

Fifty brief lives

Bourne. He attributed much of his success to his faith and the influence on his life of the many Methodists he had met over the years. He had married Edna Ploughright, a local girl who had come to work for him, at Bourne Methodist Church on 4th March 1936 and their marriage was long and successful. He also took an interest in sport as patron of Bourne Cricket Club and in local affairs and in 1960, he was elected as a member of Bourne Urban District Council and became chairman for the year 1970-71.

In 1989, he published his biography *Born With The Century*, a wide-eyed and innocent appraisal of his life written sympathetically by Anne Frazer Simpson. Copies can still be found in second-hand bookshops, mostly with the author's signature because he was always happy to attend book signings in local shops or the public library to achieve a greater readership. In it, he reveals that his name was actually Worner but the "o" was changed to an "a" when they opened their first bank account soon after the Great War of 1914-18 because it sounded too German and anti-war feelings were strong in this country.

Major extensions to the premises were opened in November 1989 and new equipment was added at a total cost of £4 million by which time the firm had established a reputation for its high quality colour printing and many of Britain's leading magazines are printed by them. The firm then had a turnover of £10 million a year but still rising, employing 180 staff and producing 120 magazine titles on its five-acre site in West Street. The company is still owned by the family with a third generation of Warners in managerial positions.

Lorry, who lived at 109 North Road, Bourne, died suddenly on 15th February 1995 at the age of 94, a few days before he and Edna were due to celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary. The Abbey Church at Bourne was packed for his funeral service which was followed by cremation at Grantham. A friend, Terry Bates, summed up the mood of Bourne after the service: "Lorry was one of the best known people in the town. His contribution to the community was considerable in a variety of ways and he will be sadly missed." After his death, Edna Warner went to live at the Cedars residential home for the elderly in Church Walk where she died in 2003.



Warners Midlands plc headquarters in West Street



Trevor Brodrick
1903-88

Sheila Campbell
1910-95



Few people living in Bourne realised that one of Britain's aristocrats had also made his home here. He was the 11th Viscount Midleton, a family title that had survived the centuries after being handed down through relatives rather than by the usual direct family line of father to son.

Trevor Lowther Brodrick of Frogmore Cottage, 105 North Road, Bourne, succeeded to the Viscountcy of Midleton and Barony of Brodrick in November 1979 after his third cousin, George St John Brodrick MC, a former captain in the Suffolk Yeomanry, died at the age of 91. The title of Viscount of Midleton derives from the peerage of Ireland and was created in 1717 with the name being adopted from a small coastal town in County Cork, while the title of the Baron of Brodrick, Peper Harow, is a peerage of Great Britain created in 1796 and named after a hamlet near Godalming in Surrey, where previous members of the family once lived.

Lord Midleton was 76 when he inherited the title and was then happily married to Sheila Campbell MacLeod, daughter of Charles Campbell MacLeod, having wed in 1940 after they met while visiting a post office in London with relatives. She had been born at Glenhurst, one of the large and imposing West Road villas in Bourne where the family, who owned the MacLeod brewery company at Spalding, lived before moving to Cawthorpe House.

Both were completely deaf but refused to allow the disability affect their lives, becoming experts at lip reading and during their marriage, shared a mutual love of cookery, gardening, photography, reading and watching television, as well as using their experiences to good effect. The result was that during their time in Bourne, they became well known for their work with people similarly afflicted, founding the Bourne branch of the National Deaf Children's Society in 1961. The couple also shared theatrical links in that the daughter of Lady Midleton's cousin was the film actress Charlotte Rampling and her husband's niece was the actress Susan Brodrick,

Lord Midleton was born in Hampshire on 7th March 1903, the son of William John Henry Brodrick OBE, grandson of the seventh viscount, and Blanche Sophia Emily Hawker. He was educated privately and moved to Bourne in 1940 and soon became well known in the town for his support of many local organisations, becoming vice-president of the Bourne and District branch of the Royal British Legion while his wife took an active interest in the Girl Guides. She was vice-president of the Lincolnshire South Girl Guides and a hut in the Peper Harow field behind their home in North Road was a regular meeting place for "Brownie Revels", summer camps and other guiding activities. Both were founder members of the Bourne group of the Lincolnshire and South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation, now the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. Over

Fifty brief lives

the years, the Peper Harow meadow became a treasured county camp site but this arrangement came to an end with Lord Middleton's death when the land was sold for residential development and is now occupied by a housing estate known as Middleton Gardens.

He died in 1988 at the age of 85 and a memorial service was held at the Abbey Church on November 2nd when the vicar, the Rev John Warwick, paid tribute to the high regard and esteem in which Viscount Middleton had been held in the town, his long and full life, his kindness and generosity and his active support for local organisations, many of them represented at the church including the Girl Guides, the Civic Society, St John Ambulance Brigade and the Stamford and Spalding Conservative Association.

On his death, the title passed to his nephew Alan Henry Brodrick who became the 12th viscount. He was Keeper of Clocks at the National Clock Museum at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and an occasional guest expert on the popular BBC Television programme *The Antiques Road Show*. The Dowager Viscountess Middleton continued to live in North Road until April 1992 when she moved to the Cedars Residential Home in Church Walk, Bourne, where she died on 17th December 1995, aged 85.

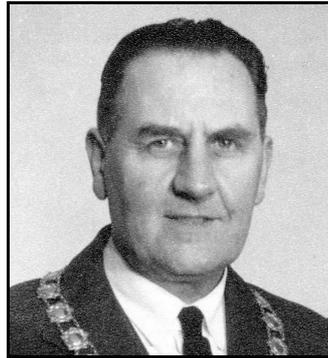
Debrett, the handbook of the titled and famous, describes the family coat of arms in its usual antiquated and obtuse language, thus: "Arms: Argent on chief vert, two spears' heads on the field, erect, and embrued gules. Crest: Out of a ducal coronet or, a spear head argent, embrued gules. Supporters: Two men in armour, proper, each holding a spear in the exterior hand. "

The titled family line began with the successful legal career of the first viscount, Alan Brodrick, who was appointed Solicitor-General for Ireland in 1695. He became Attorney General in 1707, M P for Cork from 1692-1709 and for Midhurst in Surrey 1717-22 and subsequently held several other important positions in Ireland including Speaker in the House of Commons, Justice of the King's Bench (1709-10), Lord Chancellor (1714-28) and a Lord Justice (1716-17, 1719 and 1723-24).



Viscount Middleton (right) pictured with the Earl of Ancaster in 1980

Jack Burchnell
1909-73



Few councillors contribute very much to the community they are elected to serve but there are exceptions, particularly from the 19th century, and in recent years the most outstanding among them in Bourne was Jack Burchnell. He was born and brought up in this town and devoted a quarter of a century to its interests, most notably by instilling a new sense of civic pride in the people by introducing two new customs that survive to this day, the annual Civic Sunday and the Civic Ball. Both were intended to bring together once a year those involved in the decision-making processes and who hold office in our various organisations, to worship, to talk and to cement those bonds of fellowship that are essential if a community is to survive.

Jack Burchnell was born in 1909 and attended the Abbey Road Primary School before going on to Bourne Grammar School. He worked in the telephone engineer's department at Peterborough Post Office until premature retirement through ill health in 1969, a career broken only by the Second World War of 1939-45 when he served for four years in the Royal Corps of Signals. His interest in community affairs began after demobilisation and he sat as a member of Bourne Urban District Council continuously from 1948, being elected chairman twice, in 1955-56 and again in 1967-68.

In May 1969, he was presented with a silver salver to mark 21 years as a member of the authority. "No one has carried out his duties with more zeal", said the chairman, Councillor W E Kelby, making the presentation. "I think we all recognise in him the qualities of public service, community service and pride in the town of Bourne. His principal object in life is the community of Bourne and pride in this small town of ours. We hope that this long and splendid service will continue for many years to come." Mrs Burchnell, who attended the presentation ceremony, was given a large bouquet of flowers by the chairman's wife, Mrs Dot Kelby. In reply, Councillor Burchnell, who had been successful yet again defending his seat in the North Ward during the recent Bourne UDC elections, said: "I really ought to be giving the council a gift for the privilege of serving this authority. It was an honour to be returned last Saturday after 21 years. This was the greatest honour the town could afford me."

The Civic Ball, now held at the Corn Exchange every year when the current mayor invites those who have supported and aided him during his year of office, began with Jack Burchnell. Although the event was first held on Friday 14th May 1969 when Councillor W E Kelby was chairman of Bourne Urban District Council, the foundations had been laid by Councillor Burchnell when he had been chairman the previous year. He arranged what he called a civic function to which all organisations in the town were invited, including commercial, business and industrial undertakings, and the following year the event was put on an official footing by his successor. He was also instrumental

Fifty brief lives

in organising a fund for purchasing an official insignia to be worn by the wives of the council chairmen at official functions and was also a member of the joint committee responsible for preparing the way for the new South Kesteven District Council under the local government re-organisation which was then underway.

During his council career, Councillor Burchnell served on all council committees and was a governor of Bourne Grammar School, the first former pupil of the school ever to be so elected. He was also a trustee of Bourne United Charities of which he became chairman, and a Commissioner for Income Taxes for South Lincolnshire. He held numerous other appointments and was a member of the Lincolnshire Association, the Lincolnshire Urban District Councils' and Non-County Boroughs' Association and the Bourne Evening Class committee. He was also the urban district council's representative on East Midlands Tourist Board and a founder member of Bourne and South Kesteven Post Office Advisory Committee. He was also a past master of the Hereward Lodge of Freemasons and an active churchman, serving as a member of the parochial church council at the Abbey Church and churchwarden twice from 1963-64 and 1970-71. He was also choirmaster for 20 years although he was forced to retire from this due to illness. One of his other musical successes was in founding the Burchnell Singers, a small but enthusiastic group of vocalists who made many appearances locally at concerts and other functions free of charge for worthwhile causes. He and his wife lived at 25, South Road, Bourne and his main pastime was playing golf.

He died in the Butterfield Hospital at Bourne on Friday 8th June 1973 at the age of 64. The funeral service at the Abbey Church was conducted by the vicar, Canon Gordon Lanham and the church was packed with family and friends and members of the various organisations with which he had been connected during his lifetime. He was cremated but his ashes were not preserved and sadly there is no memorial to him in this town. Family and friends however remembered him by presenting a large bible inscribed with the important dates in his life to the Abbey Church and which is now kept on the lectern where it is used for reading the lessons at morning and evening services. At this request, there were no flowers at the funeral but instead, contributions were made to his two most loved buildings, the Abbey Church and the Red Hall. Ironically, the annual Civic Sunday that he had been instrumental in founding, was held in the week after he died with the largest attendance to date and at which Canon Lanham paid tribute to his untiring work for the town and those who lived here.

There were further testimonials to come when Bourne Urban District Council met on Tuesday 19th June. Everyone stood in silent tribute to their former colleague and Councillor Leslie Day spoke movingly about their association stretching back to the early days of the 20th century. He said: "This council has been in existence for 75 years and Jack Burchnell has served on it for one third of that time, twice as chairman and as a member of all committees. His best work was done as chairman of the housing committee and he had an intimate knowledge of the housing needs for this town and a considerable attitude towards what was needed. When I came to Bourne Grammar School as a young master, I had Jack in my first class on my first morning so perhaps I can claim more knowledge than most of this kindly man. His great wish was to serve Bourne and its people and this he has done in no small measure."

Councillor Day moved that the outstanding record of the work achieved by Jack Burchnell on behalf of the town should be recorded in the council minutes and this was done, the first official recognition of its kind that has not been repeated since, and many

Fifty brief lives

newly elected councillors also remembered his kindness in guiding them through their early years as members.

But his most important contribution to Bourne was the saving of the Red Hall which was threatened with demolition after being vacated by the railway company who had used it as a booking office since 1860. When the railway line closed in 1962, the hall was acquired by Bourne United Charities and Councillor Burchnell was appointed appeal director with the role of saving and restoring it for community use. It was his foremost ambition to see the ancient building returned to a good state of repair, a task that took ten years and was completed in the December before he died when the refurbished property was officially opened in its new role.

This is his most lasting accomplishment because the Red Hall still stands today despite attempts by others to tear it down and the work he did to preserve it is amply described in a preface to the second edition of his book *A History of Bourne* written by J D Birkbeck in September 1976: "A well known building whose fate was at one time uncertain now stands secure with its future role assured. This is the Red Hall. In the late 1960s, Bourne United Charities, with the enthusiastic inspiration of their chairman, Councillor Jack Burchnell, undertook extensive renovation work to the old Tudor building. The whole structure was made safe, the roof re-tiled, the chimneys rebuilt and the original mullioned windows renewed and repaired. Internally, the fine staircase was restored, as were other rooms in the long gallery at the top of the house. The two front rooms on the first floor were combined into one, thus affording accommodation for social functions and public gatherings. Other rooms were equipped for various purposes, including a local museum. Thus, on 2nd December 1972, the Red Hall was officially opened as a community centre. Since then it has been in constant demand for both public and private functions and many of the town's organisations have been able to benefit from the use of its premises."

There may be no public memorial to Councillor Jack Burchnell in Bourne but this is his legacy and it is there for all to see.



The Red Hall in Bourne



Marjorie Clark
1919-2007

The progression of Marjorie Clark from pub landlady to long-serving local councillor was a strange one but nevertheless true. She and her husband Denys kept the Nag's Head in the Market Place and one of their regular customers was Dr George Holloway, a family doctor whose practice was at Brook Lodge in South Street. He was a member of Bourne Urban District Council and its chairman from 1957-58 and Marjorie regularly discussed local issues whenever he dropped in.

One evening late in 1966, with the council elections pending the following spring, he appeared in the lounge as usual but as he left to go home, he put his head round the door and said to Marjorie: "I am dying and will be unable to carry on and so I want you to take my place when it happens." He did not seek re-election because of his ill health and so Marjorie took his place at the hustings and in 1967 was returned unopposed to fill the seat he had vacated and remained active in local affairs to become Bourne's longest serving councillor with 40 years of service to her credit.

Marjorie Dora Hubbard was born on 16th February 1919 and spent her early years at Scunthorpe in Lincolnshire and after leaving school at 15, she went to work as a secretary in a solicitor's office. At this time, she also joined the Junior Imperial League of the Conservative Party, known affectionately as "The Imps" and was appointed assistant secretary and then treasurer, a position she held until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. Shortly before, she had become a volunteer in the ARP, the forerunner of the Civil defence Service, working on communications until 1945. During the war years, because of staff shortages, she also took over the law firm's work on behalf of the Chamber of Trade and became involved in a number of other activities including the Girls' Training Corps and welfare work for servicemen stationed in the district and was one of the two representatives from the town to take part in the Victory Parade in London in 1945.

When the war ended, Marjorie re-started the Young Conservative Association as joint chairman and treasurer and she eventually became its chairman while continuing her fund raising activities for various charities. Her interest in local government deepened through a friend who worked for Scunthorpe Corporation and who one summer went to Brighton as a local delegate for the annual conference of NALGO, the local government officers' union, and invited Marjorie along. "I attended practically every session", she remembered in later years. "I could not get enough of it. I was well and truly hooked." Then in 1947, at the age of 28, she made her first attempt to win a local council seat by standing as Conservative candidate in the municipal elections for the Frodingham Ward on Scunthorpe Borough Council and although she was defeated, managed to win the highest number of votes of any Tory candidate to contest that seat in past years.

Fifty brief lives

In the same year, she met Denys Clark, a metallurgist at one of the steelworks in Scunthorpe, and they married on 3rd January 1948. But health problems forced Denys to leave the industry and the couple decided to set up their own business in the retail grocery trade, buying a small shop but still looking for something more suitable to their temperaments. In 1953 they sought and were granted the tenancy of the Cocked Hat Hotel, one of the first hotels to be built at Scunthorpe during the post-war years and here they stayed, learning the intricacies of the licensed trade until moving to Bourne in 1959 to take over the Burghley Arms in the Market Place. It was from here that Marjorie gained her first election success by winning a seat on Bourne Urban District Council in 1961 but her council career was short lived because they moved to take over the tenancy of the Sea Horse at Deene in Northamptonshire in 1962. But four years later they were back in Bourne behind the bar of the Nag's Head and it was here that Dr Holloway made his sad but welcome suggestion that Marjorie should succeed him.

After re-joining the council in 1967 she chaired many committees including estates and planning and development, and became chairman from 1971-72 when she was only the third woman to hold the post since the council's inception in 1899, and her daughter Mrs Penny Woodward, then a 15 year old pupil at Stamford High School, became the chairman's lady. Bourne Urban District Council ceased to exist on 12th March 1974 under the re-organisation of local government and its duties and responsibilities were taken over by Bourne Town Council and Marjorie continued as one of its elected members. She and her husband retired from the licensed trade in 1979 and Denys was her consort when she became Mayor of Bourne in 1984-85. "We had a most wonderful year", she recalls. "We did not miss a single engagement. It was simply marvellous."



Digby Court, one of Marjorie's main interests

Denys died after a long illness in 1986 at the age of 77. "I lost not only a husband but also my most loyal supporter", said Marjorie. "Right up until the end, he insisted that I must continue with all of my council and other activities." Marjorie did as he wished, despite undergoing open-heart surgery in 1987 followed by a further operation in 1988. But her stamina and determination amazed everyone who knew her and she was soon up and about again, throwing herself wholeheartedly into whichever task came her way. Not only did she retain her seat on the town council without a break, but was also elected Mayor of Bourne for a second term in 1999-2000 at the remarkable age of 81.

She has also served with distinction as a member of South Kesteven District Council, the local authority which came into being under the re-organisation of local government in 1974. Its inauguration the previous year necessitated major administrative work and

Fifty brief lives

Marjorie served on the steering committee planning its formation and was subsequently elected as the member for Bourne West Ward which she represented as an Independent and then Conservative member for the next 21 years, becoming council vice-chairman for two years and then chairman for another two years from 1990-92, the first woman to hold the office. A switch in allegiance from Conservative to Independent cost her the seat in the 1995 elections but she has continued to serve on Bourne Town Council.

Her other interests were wide and varied, with particular affection for the Mother's Union at the Abbey Church, the Digby Court old peoples' home where she was a tireless helper, the Bourne Evergreen Club which she chaired from 1970 and the ladies' section of Bourne British Legion. She was also a trustee of Bourne United Charities and supported innumerable other organisations and charities in the town. But her council work was always her first love. "I have never specialised in any particular field but have taken a deep interest in them all", she said, "whether it be the roads, housing, public health, welfare and even the Christmas lights. I like to think of myself as a dedicated councillor representing the people who have voted for me all these years for that is what I was elected to do and that is what I have always striven to achieve."

Marjorie decided not to stand for the town council at the May elections in 2007 because of declining health and later that year she was admitted to the Cedars retirement home in Bourne where she died on Wednesday 26th September 2007. Her daughter, Penny, who gave the eulogy at a memorial service held at the Abbey Church on Wednesday 10th October, said: "If there is a committee in heaven, she will be on it."

In her final years, Marjorie had devoted much of her time tracing her ancestry and came up with some surprising results. During the Second World War of 1939-45, she had tried to join the Women's Royal Naval Service (the Wrens) when she was 21 but was asked to produce a birth certificate and it was only when she obtained one from Somerset House that she discovered for the first time that she was not only adopted but also born of Jewish parents. And so began a long search lasting 60 years during which time she tracked down her real family and a number of relatives living in England and Israel.

Marjorie was born Dora Harrison at Liverpool on 16th February 1919 but raised by a Christian family as Marjorie Dora Hubbard by her adoptive parents who had chosen her as a baby from the Hostel of Hope at Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire. The birth certificate revealed that her natural mother was Sadie Harrison, an insurance clerk from Manchester. But the document did not include the father's name although subsequent genealogical investigation, both by herself and a professional researcher, revealed that her grandparents were Eli and Elizabeth Harrison from Manchester and so she placed an advertisement in several newspapers based in the city and as a result was contacted by Elizabeth Harrison, a first cousin, which led to an emotional reunion and she subsequently got in touch with her brother Jonathan who lives in Israel.

"I was stunned and overjoyed", said Marjorie. "It was an incredible discovery after so many years. Since then I have been introduced to many more relatives I never dreamed that I had. It was quite a shock to discover that I am actually Jewish and since then I have been researching Judaism, trying to find out as much as I can and although I will never renounce my Christian faith, I am pleased to acknowledge my roots." Sadly, her mother, Sadie, died in 1966 without knowing the daughter she gave up.