



Spring/Summer 2024

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'Songs from the Shows'...With a Little G&S Thrown In

Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society gave us a great show in October, despite last minute doubts that with local gales and flooding it would actually happen as singers were navigating wind and rain from all corners of North Derbyshire and South Yorkshire. Audience numbers were down on previous shows, but the resilient ones were rewarded with a fantastic evening of their favourite show tunes. With a few drinks thrown in the weather was forgotten!

We have another evening from Dore this October. See programme for details.

Stanfree Clockmaker

The Civic Society has received a very generous offer of a grandfather clock made by 18th Century clockmaker Godfrey Shacklock. He was a well known clockmaker and craftsman working in Stanfree and is recorded as working from 1795 until at least 1849, although a clockmaker of the same name is known to have carved a 'monumental chair' for the Great Exhibition of 1851, quite possibly his son, also Godfrey. The clock needs restoration work doing but if we ever do manage to obtain premises for a Bolsover Heritage Centre, Shacklock's clock will be taking pride of place.

In the meantime, it will go on display in Amanda Boler's new café on Castle Street, 'Castle Tea Rooms'



Castle Lane Land

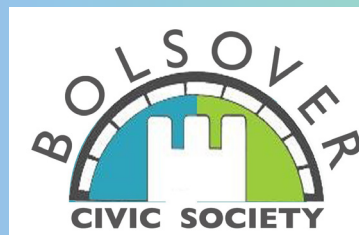
The Society has encouraged the Town Council to tidy up this corner site which joins the Back Hills. The site had become very overgrown and leads to the restored conduit house. The Spring Tidy Up is now complete.



Before



After



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Newsletter

Well Dressing 2023

Last year's Community Well Dressing celebrating the King's Coronation was beautifully designed and executed by Andy and Sarah Page with Andrew Buck making the framework to the design. Andy and Sarah are having a year off in 2024, but hope to be back in action next year.



Baroness Bolsover, an expert in all things Royal checks for Coronation accuracy.



Andrew Buck's not asleep on the job, just securing the frame.



Andy and Sarah with the finished result

Cricketing History Completes a Full Century

The Society has an excellent collection of sporting photos of local teams of the past. The Villas Road cricket ground had not been in use for many years. When it was given a new lease of life with a new team using it for regular matches we thought it a good idea to unite the past with the present by presenting copies of some of our cricketing photos for display in the Tea Room. Wayne Hatton, the District Council's Physical Activity and Sports Development Manager was enthusiastic and had them copied and framed.

Team Captain Sreekanth Balachand and owner of Alleppey Kitchen at the Elm Tree Inn, Scarcliffe is delighted the team is integrating in to the town. The photos are now on display, uniting teams spanning the cricketing years from 1920 to 2024.



Castle View Cricket Club and Team Reserves! Photo Credit; Mike Firth



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Transformations...



The Society has engaged **Phil Turton** to clean the **Fred Kitchen** seating we installed outside the library in 2022 and the **Clockmaker's Grave** in the Parish Graveyard. The latter is rightly featured in the Penguin Book of Grave Humour, but has been illegible now for many years. We have included it in the new Town Trail and think it worthy of refurbishment.

It is a credit to whoever had the foresight and sense of humour to compile the epitaph to young clockmaker **Thomas Hinde**. If you haven't read it, make a short diversion to the rear of the Parish Church. You won't be disappointed.

Another cleaning project has been that of the seven Bolsover signs erected by the Civic Society and Town Council in 2011. **Phil and Kev Bird** have also been working on these with financial assistance from the Town Council.

Place Making Workshop - Quick Wins for Bolsover Town

The irony is that the workshop was not held in Bolsover but in Hillstown Village Hall. Steve Millington, Professor of Place Management at Manchester Metropolitan University and a co-investigator in the Department of Levelling-up, chaired the meeting. He is member of the Institute of Place Management which has links with the Government's High Street Task Force and has been working with the Bolsover District Council. Jean Ball, who facilitated the meeting, is an expert for the High Street Task Force. Tickets for the workshop were available online and about 30 people attended the 3 hour meeting.

Steve began by stating some ground rules: "there is no us or them only here, don't blame everything on the Council, this has to be a joint effort, there is no master plan, aim for progression not perfection". He promised a report based on the workshop.

The workshop was split into 3 sessions. Steve explained what he saw as Bolsover's strengths and weaknesses. The audience split into 8 groups, one idea from each group to improve Bolsover was presented to the rest of the room. Ideas ranged from more police presence in the town to opening the old Coop car park.

The second session ended with what we would need to improve Bolsover. These included, overcoming the 'can't do' attitude, improve collaboration, get more people involved and shorten the time taken for changes to happen.

The third session - what can we do? Steve gave examples of successful ventures achieved by other towns, which involved getting the stakeholders together, having a collective vision with a short basic list of what could be achieved in 12 months. This generated some ideas such as creating a greater awareness of the events taking place in Bolsover, better signage to join up the town and castle and opening the old Coop car park for use but also opening the old shop once a month in winter for the Artisan market.

Overall a good and useful meeting, the main message being "we need to get better at collaborative working". But collaboration depends on getting the stakeholders together and forming a task group with a collective vision. The big unknown is the position of the £15K government 'Levelling Up' funding promised for the town.



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Bolsover Town Trail Mark III



A third edition of our Town Trail is now well in hand. **Bernard** has revised and updated the text and **Dave Wharmby** has taken a superb collection of photos to go alongside. Old Bolsover Town Council has provided the finance and Creative5's **Adam Taylor** is working on the design and print to ensure it is a publication we can all be proud of.

Following the nine Blue Plaques erected by the Civic Society in 2011, the Trail points out the the most significant buildings. Starting at the Castle Gates it follows the conservation area taking in Castle Street, Market Place, High Street and Hill Top. Highlights include the Parish Church, the Old Meeting House, St Mary's House and the conduit houses on the Back Hills.

The Trail is aimed at visitors to show what an attractive town centre we have and for residents, encouraging a feeling of pride in where we live.

Intrenchments, Oxcroft Lane

Although they are not as obvious as those on Hornscliff and Dykes Field, this piece of land houses part of the town's Saxon and Medieval earthworks or Intrenchments which encircle the town to the North and the East. The land is part of the Morrison's site and we have asked the District Council enforcement office to request that Morrison's tidy the site and include it in their landscape maintenance programme. Grass cutting will restart in March and Enforcement have promised to act if nothing is done. We will keep monitoring.

