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BRIGG HERITAGE CENTRE

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Collated information - in support of...*

Brigg Live Arts / Brigg Heritage Centre's collaboration:

Brigg Illustrated Heritage Trail

Reference Material

Please do not remove from

Brigg's Historic Cartography Exhibition

*information compiled by amateur researchers/historians

Brigg Illustrated Heritage Trail

Supporting Information *(Reference Material)*



REF Cover

The Buttercross (Market Place)

This building was built in 1819 and was originally known as the Town Hall. It was financed by a group of 26 local landowners and businessmen at a cost of around £1,000.00 - to provide a meeting place for the people of Brigg.

The upper floor was used as a meeting room where important decisions regarding the town were made by local guardians. It was also used for important gatherings and for conducting auctions.

The ground level was made into a Buttercross for the sale of dairy and poultry. It had a stone floor and railed open archways.

There was a grand opening on the evening of 28th June 1819, with a ball for invited guests from the town.

There was a small belfry above the rear of the building that contained a bell which was rung on special occasions. Around 1845 a turret was added to house a clock with a bell, however it had a dubious reputation of showing the wrong time, much to the annoyance of the general populace.

The building was owned by the Elwes family until the early 20th century when it was acquired by the then Urban District council, the upper floor was used for council meetings, and after removal of the open arches, the ground floor was offices. It was used by the Urban District Council until 1969.

More alterations took place in the 1970s, to recapture the atmosphere of the Buttercross, the archways were again opened with seating inside.

In 1989 as part of the Brigg regeneration project the building was refurbished with a regency style reception room with terracotta walls, chandeliers, a gilded mirror and a polished maple floor.

In February 1991, Diana, Princess of Wales officially opened the renamed Buttercross Building.

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BRIGG MARKET, 50 Years ago

Photograph—G. C. Schiefel

Ref 1

The Market Place

It is known from archaeological discoveries (namely the Brigg Raft and Log Boat) that settlement in some form existed about 3,000 years ago at this crossing point of the Ancholme river.

The name of Glanford Brigg could have been from the

Saxon word 'glampford' meaning clamps or planks laid across a ford and 'Brigg' a local word for bridge.

Another theory is that 'Glanford' comes from an old English word 'gleam' meaning merriment and suggests a river crossing where people met for fun and enjoyment, possibly a fair or market.

It is therefore likely that a market took place here in ancient times. At the turn of the 13th century King John granted a charter for a weekly Thursday market and an annual horse fair. This charter dates from 1204 and would be before the Magna Carta was signed. The charter was reissued by King Henry III in 1236. A weekly Thursday market still takes place here 800 years later.

An annual statute fair or 'Statty' was held on a Friday around the 12th of May. The purpose of the Statty was for farm workers and domestic workers to offer their services for the coming year. They would parade in the market square, wearing a symbol of their trade and a bag of their possessions. Potential employers would select a worker and offer a 'fastening penny', if this was accepted it was considered to be an irrevocable bond and they were expected to report for work within two days. Many of the buildings date back to the 18th and 19th centuries and were occupied by various businesses and dwellings.

There were two coaching houses and several taverns and inns, they included the Angel, the White Lion, the Woolpack, the Ancholme and the Hope Inn.

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Ref 2 (also 37)

The Angel Building

It is believed that a welcoming hostelry has stood at this location since the mid-16th century. Records confirm that farmers and occupiers met ‘at the court of the Angel’.

Brigg was an important staging post for travellers on the Lincoln to Barton-upon-Humber Turnpike Road during the 18th and 19th centuries. The Angel became the foremost posting house in North Lincolnshire and offered superior facilities for the passing traveller. It was also used as a meeting place and hosted many important gatherings.

Until the late 19th century, it had been a single storey building but in 1897 the resident landlord Mr Joseph Skevington created a glass covered courtyard, and in 1898 another storey was added, and an imposing mock Tudor facade complimented the refurbishment. When Mr Skivington retired, a colourful character called Billy Bridgewater took over as landlord. Billy was noted for always wearing a bowler hat and a bow tie.

In 1928 after 400 years of private ownership, Billy sold the property to the Barnsley Brewery. It was later acquired by Hewitt Bros Ltd. and eventually incorporated into the Bass Charrington business.

Winston Churchill visited the Angel when he visited Scunthorpe during the weeks leading up to D-Day in 1944. He reputedly gave a speech from the balcony.

In more recent times Glanford Borough Council and later North Lincolnshire Council took ownership of the premises and carried out extensive alterations to the interior. It is now the location of the Brigg Community Hub/Library and Angel Suite (Ballroom).

The first floor of the Angel is home to Brigg Heritage Centre and the permanent location of The Brigg Raft (circa 800BC) run by the charity Ancholme Valley Heritage Trust Ltd (Charity No. 1157731). The building is also the home of Brigg Town Council and the Atrium Café. The Angel is reputed to be haunted by several spirits – the most renowned is ‘Old Tom’ the Angel Hotel’s Ostler (*Ostler: A man employed to look after the horses owned by people staying at an inn*). Legend has it that he often makes his presence known.

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Ref 3

The Toll Boards

The two Table of Tolls boards are displayed on buildings in Wrawby Street and Bridge Street. They refer to charges made for produce and livestock offered for sale at Brigg Market.

The charges contributed to the costs of providing a Market Inspector, who was responsible for collecting the tolls and supervising and ensuring the standards for cleanliness were maintained.

It is interesting to know that these tolls were approved by the Minister of Health in July 1921 (and CFW Cotton, Clerk to the Brigg Urban District Council). However, records state that Mr CFW Cotton was not Clerk to the Council in 1921. This post was held by Mr GS Sowter. Mr Cotton only served in this capacity from 1932 to 1938. Perhaps the original boards were reproduced in the 1930s.

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Ref 4

Water Pump (The Town Pumps)

There are two pumps in Brigg, one is situated at the County Bridge and the other adjacent to the White Horse public house, in Grammar School Road South.

Before piped water came to Brigg these pumps were the only source of water for those areas of the town. From time to time the underground sources for these pumps became contaminated with waste from poor drainage and this led to outbreaks of cholera and other waterborne diseases. In 1832 there was an outbreak of cholera which resulted in some inhabitants becoming seriously ill and a number of deaths were recorded.

Later in 1852 the Elwes family were instrumental in providing piped water to parts of the town from the spring at St Helens Well, situated east of Wrawby Road. This eliminated the need to fetch and carry water from the pumps and vastly improved the health of the inhabitants in those areas.

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Ref 5

County Bridge

The current single span County Bridge was built in 1828, and replaced a previous bridge that was constructed in 1665, this bridge spanned the river on three arches.

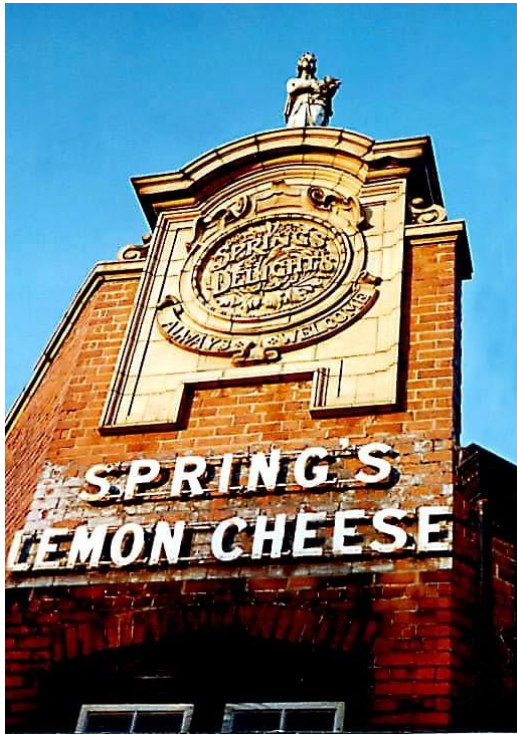
The foundation stone was laid on 9th June 1828, by the High Sheriff C Winn Esq., Sir Robert Sheffield, Mr J S Padley the county surveyor, Mr G Willoughby of York, the main contractor and Mr WT Leak of Louth, the Clerk of works.

The foundation stone was an oblong block on the top of which a cavity was made to house a collection of George IV coins which were covered with a copper plate. A further cavity contained a glass vial with a parchment listing the names of the Minister, Churchwardens and Parish Officers of that year. The parchment also stated that the old bridge was taken down in May 1828 and a date of 1665 was found on a wooden dovetailed frame beneath the masonry. Another copper plate was placed over these items and both plates were sealed and run in with lead.

The bridge carried two-way traffic through the town until 1993 when the new bridge opened on Atherton Way.

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Ref 6

Springs Sign (on B&M wall)

This carved stone mosaic was carefully removed from the building that stood on the riverside factory site of Spring and Co. (Springs Delights). The saved mosaic from the pinnacle of the factory is now located to the riverside aspect - incorporated into the present building constructed in the 1980s.

Henry Spring was a Chemist who combined a talent for cooking delightful preserved and condiments and became a very successful manufacturer. His business was originally based in Coney Court in the 1880s where he devised a very popular recipe for a Lemon

Cheese (Curd). As his business grew, he moved his manufacturing into purpose-built facilities by the riverside.

Springs expanded their range to include Horseradish Cream, Orange Butter and other table delicacies. Queen Victoria was said to be particularly fond of Springs Horseradish Cream when dining on roast beef at Osbourne House (on the Isle of Wight). By 1893 the firm claimed to have a worldwide reputation and boasted that it used Lincolnshire farm produce in their recipes.

The company had continuing success into the 20th century, and it became a major employer of local people as it added the manufacture of jams and marmalade to its wide range of products. A workforce of 200 to 300 people was employed at the peak of manufacturing during the mid-20th century.

A 'make it at home' product in a tin, called Ma Made, was originated by Springs & Co. This enabled consumers to make a quality marmalade by just adding water, with a minimum of cooking!

A regular supply of oranges from Spain arrived at Brigg railway station and were unloaded onto carts and other vehicles to be taken through the arched entry near the County Bridge.

John Morrell and Co acquired the company in 1973 but the factory closed in 1980 and the site was redeveloped. Some of the smaller Springs buildings are incorporated within the retail units in Springs Parade.

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Ref 7

Buttercross Bell

This bell was originally situated in a small tower behind the main clock tower above the Buttercross building.

The bell would be rung on important national and civic occasions, i.e. the death or coronation of a monarch. It may also have been used for public announcements and proclamations were made.

Photographic evidence suggests that the small bell tower holding the bell was still in place as late as the 1950s prior to its removal.

The Buttercross Bell is now displayed on a plinth in Market Place. It was presented to the town by Brigg Rotary Club to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International in 2005.

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Ref 8

Coney Court

This Courtyard is situated on the north side of Marker Place and is indicated by the archway sign that includes two rabbits.

Until the 1860s this courtyard was known as Nicholsons yard, it was named after the family Nicholson who occupied the house and buildings fronting the marketplace. The courtyard extended northwards and included several cottages and other buildings which accommodated various trades.

It was subsequently renamed Coney Court recalling that in the late 18th early

19th century some of the rear premises were used in the processing of rabbit skins. Edward Peacock (Antiquarian and Novelist) in his 1877 'Glossary of Local Words' records that coney was a local name for both a rabbit and a rabbit skin.

As the rabbit trade declined in the 19th century the use of the buildings changed, with the courtyard was an Infant school, established in the last rabbit skinning workshop the site is now occupied by the Brigg Servicemans Club.

During the 1960s-70s the Neal family ran a popular fish and chip shop which subsequently changed ownership and still operates today (The Hungry Fisherman). The remains of some of the original buildings are still visible opposite the chip shop.

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Ref 9

The Cross Keys (Little Butchery)

This was thought to be Brigg's smallest premises serving beer when it was opened in the early 1840s and run by Mr William Ashton. Beer was brewed on the premises and was served through the bow window, now boarded up, on Little Butchery. It is believed to have closed in the 1850s.

Little Butchery alley was the route used to drive animals to the slaughter housed in Elwes street (formerly the Butchery).

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Ref 10

College Yard

This yard was given its present name in 1869 as it was owned by Clare College, Cambridge. It had formerly been known as Springs Lane and included Eccles Yard and Brocklesby's Yard. These were named after business owners and occupants of the yards. It consisted of several cottages on either side nearest Wrawby Street, with workshops and small businesses at the north end, there would have been easy access for wheeled vehicles. Census records for the 19th century indicate a

diverse number of businesses including shoemakers, blacksmiths, curriers and general labourers.

At the end of the 19th century major reconstruction took place on the west side of Wrawby street and a Post Office was purpose built. During the early part of the 20th century this building housed the telephone exchange. The post office closed in 1936 and moved to Bigby Street.

After World War 1 many of the cottages were converted to warehousing but a few at the south end remained inhabited until the 1960s.

Following construction work and an archaeological dig, a copper alloy trade token was found in part of a defensive ditch used in the English Civil War. It is displayed in Gallery 2 at Brigg Heritage Centre.

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Ref 10 > More interesting facts...

Courtyard Signs

The old courtyards of Brigg are an important connection with the history of the town. They provided living quarters and workshops for the population of Brigg in past times.

In recent years metal archway signs have been placed at the entrances to these courtyards from Wrawby Street, Market Place and the Old Courts car park.

The names and emblems give clues to the occupants, owners and functions of the yards in earlier times:

- Coney Court was associated with the rabbit skin trade in the 18th and 19th centuries and is represented by the rabbit shapes (Coneys).
- College Yard is owned by Clare College, Cambridge and this is represented by the shields.
- Cressey Yard is named after William Cressey who ran the Post Office for many years from the premises now the Cardzone shop and is recalled by the envelope in the 19th century.
- School Court contains the outline of a shamrock, as this area was occupied by many of the Irish Community in the 19th century.
- Chapel Yard was the rear access to the Congregational Church and cottages in the courtyard.

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Ref 11

Wise Owl

School Court was home to a school which gave it its name - and is also remembered by the 'Wise Owl' metal posts in the alleyway.

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Supporting Information *(Reference Material)*



Ref 12

Chapel Court

The cottages behind the Old Congregational Church provide a glimpse of the type of accommodation found in many of the courtyards on the North side of Wrawby Street.

In the 19th century Chapel Yard contained 30 to 35 properties and housed over 100 people. It extended northwards (now Barnards Avenue) ending at the town drain.

The cottages were often overcrowded with only basic amenities, all water for cooking and washing would have been brought from the town pumps. Toilet facilities were provided by rows of 'privies' built along the line of the drain.

Access from Wrawby Street was provided by two narrow passages either side of the Chapel, which had a small graveyard at the rear.

Several businesses including an abattoir operated from the courtyard.

During the 20th century the inhabitants moved out as new housing became available in Newlands and other parts of Brigg. The properties became derelict, and most were demolished in the 1960s. Those remaining were restored as part of the Brigg Regeneration Project in the 1990s. The restoration and construction were carried out by a local development company G W Rowbottom and Sons, under the direction of Mr John Rowbottom, whose family have a long connection with the town.

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Supporting Information *(Reference Material)*



Ref 13

Wallheads Outfitters

This business was founded in 1897 by James Blackburn Wallhead and this shop is still run by the family.

In the early days the business was situated further up Wrawby Street, but eventually

relocated to the present and prominent corner location. It is believed to be the oldest retail business in Wrawby Street still trading today.

It has been and still is a popular supplier of traditional country clothing to many in Lincolnshire and beyond for many decades.

Mr Richard Wallhead is currently head of the business and he recalls how his father, James Rowland Wallhead, would cycle around the local villages collecting a shilling a week from customers who had an account with him. Richard's mother ran a Hairdressing business at the rear of the shop for many years.

Two copperplate signs carrying the Wallhead name are still displayed in the windows and have been part of the business for many decades. In the early part of the 20th century the shop front was illuminated with three large gas lamps that were suspended beneath the name boards above the shop.

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Ref 14

Turners Butchers (Queen Street)

This building was originally a house, it was altered and used as a butcher's premises.

A noted Brigg butcher, Richard 'Dickie' Munday operated from here in the early 20th century, followed by another butcher, Fred Jeffery.

The Turner family took over the premises in the early 1930s and the business passed through the family until it closed in April 2000. Turner and Son were noted pork butchers, and their sausages and pork pies were much sought after.

The premises were later converted into The Beauty Clinique, and it is believed that the original pavement level display of 'ENGLISH MEAT ONLY' remains (although hidden) behind the modern display boards.

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Ref 15

The White Horse (Wetherspoon)

This 18th century building was originally a farmhouse with stabling and extensive gardens to the rear. It belonged to the Elwes family.

It became a public house in the early 19th century, when it was acquired by the local Sutton Bean brewery, when the brewery sold its brewery and estate, it was taken over by Wards Brewery of Sheffield, and up to the 1960s hosted the Horse Fair, annually, on the 5th of August.

The adjacent land was used as a paddock. This paddock is commemorated on the Street nameplate on the opposite side of the new road.

The Grand Cinema was built to the right of the White Horse in the 1920s but was demolished before the new road was constructed.

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Ref 16

Water Pump (Dressed)

In recent years an annual custom was established 'Blessing of The Pumps' - when the two pumps are decorated with flowers and a procession of dancers, dressed in colourful attire, progress through the town between the locations of the pumps. Celebration of the pumps still take place to this day usually in May.

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Ref 17

Sir John Nelthorpe School

The school was founded - as a result of a bequest from the will of Sir John Nelthorpe in 1669, but the original building was not completed until around 1680.

Sir John Nelthorpe was born in Brigg in 1614, and was a lawyer by profession, but turned soldier during the English Civil War. He died, unmarried, in 1669 and decided to leave a legacy by founding a school in Brigg. The 17th century building, which still exists has the original arched doorway, and is the main

entrance to the upper school in Grammar School Road.

The early plans show that the school consisted of a schoolroom, a Masters House, an Ushers House and kitchens. An upper level provided rooms for boarders and servants. Part of this building now forms a reception area and houses a modern, computerised library. A fine portrait of Sir John Nelthorpe is displayed in this part of the school.

The school expanded during the 19th century and continued as a Grammar School for boys until 1976, when it merged with Brigg Girls High School and became a comprehensive.

As late as 1968 boys were required to wear the school cap. The old tradition of Saturday morning attendance was normal, but the boys were given Wednesday afternoon off unless sports matches were being played.

The school celebrated its tercentenary (300 years) in 1969 and is now well into its fourth century as one of the oldest founded schools in the area.

Ref 18

School Graffiti

A careful inspection of the front wall of the school reveals several etched initials in the brickwork, likely to have been etched there by former pupils of the school.

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Ref 19

The Old Police Station

Brigg Police Station was designed by the County Surveyor, JS Padley, built by local builder Jarvis Dent, and it opened in 1842.

The frontage was originally one storey and included several cells, a courthouse and accommodation for a Superintendent. Mr Richard Potton was appointed the first Superintendent together with four Constables.

In 1864, a notable local burglar, 'Raggy' Hornsby, who had previously escaped from Kirton Lindsey Bridewell, was awaiting trial in one of the cells. He ingeniously managed to escape over a rear wall and made off. He was not recaptured. He unfortunately met his end by drowning, in the River Trent, whilst escaping custody following his flight from Brigg Constabulary.

The Police Station closed in the 1970s with operations moving to the present location on Barnard Avenue. The building has now been converted into apartments.

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Ref 20

The Britannia Public House

The Britannia public house was built as the Sutton Bean Ltd. breweries tap (this means that it belongs to the brewery and is used to showcase the complete range of a brewery's products).

Sutton, Bean and Co. were brewers, wine and spirit merchants, importers and bonders, and beer bottles. Their premises were listed as Wrawby Street and Queen Street and they owned a considerable amount of property between the streets. Including an off licence in Queen Street. The brewery tower and many of the buildings can be seen at the rear of properties in Queen Street.

Sutton and Bean were successful until the 1920s, after the firm suffered a crisis when Sutton removed his capital and Bean decided to sell the Brewery and estate of public houses. The company closed in 1924. The Britannia Inn was sold to the Hull Brewery Company. Because of Brigg's conservation area initiative, the buildings have changed little since the brewery closed.

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Ref 21

Tin Tab

The Tin Tab (a place of ease) was gifted to the town by retired police inspector Mr David Andrew. He was a Brigg resident, and it was built in memory of his and his wife's parents.

It is set on a site previously known as East Park; the park was created after the removal of the Turnpike Tollbar in 1872. It included a fence known locally to the children as the 'Tippling Bars', they were a popular plaything.

Turnpike: a gate blocked the road until the toll was paid.

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Ref 22

War Memorial

The monument was dedicated on Sunday 15th June 1919. Brigg War Memorial was one of the earliest to be opened in the country after the end of the Great War. It was unveiled by Mrs H Stamp, on behalf of her husband who had gifted the memorial to the town.

The cost of the structure, borne privately by Mr Stamp, at a cost of £1,500, was designed by Mr J Thewlis of Leeds. It is built of Portland stone and consists of a central pedestal and shaft, with pedestals on either side, on which repose two finely carved lions. Polished granite tablets on the face of the pedestals, inscribed, in gold, with the names of the fallen.

There was a large procession from the Town Hall (Buttercross) headed by the town Silver Band, together with demobilised soldiers, members of the Town Council and inhabitants of the town and neighbouring parishes. Taking part in the ceremony were Messers H Stamp, H E Bryant (headmaster of Brigg Grammar school), Rev F Burgess, Rev W Addlesee, Rev J Dann and Rev J Holmes. The ceremony opened with the National Anthem and readings from the scriptures followed by eloquent prayers. Mr Stamp addressed the large crowd and the names of the fallen were solemnly read out.

Subsequently after World War 2 further names of those lost were added. A Service of Remembrance is held in November every year.

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Ref 23

Avenue of Trees (Wrawby Road)

At a public meeting in the Town Hall in January 1879, it was proposed that an avenue of trees be planted each side of Wrawby Road, stretching from the Workhouse entrance to the Cemetery. It was also decided at this meeting that the cost would be met by soliciting subscriptions from the local inhabitants.

At a subsequent meeting in October 1879, a resolution was passed to carry out the planting of the trees. During much debate at this meeting, Dr Moxon, a surgeon, respected by all in the community, gave his opinion in support of the resolution, by stating that the planting of trees would not only beautify the entrance to the town but would also make the place healthier by keeping off fevers and other epidemics.

Another supporter of the scheme was Mr Thomas Andrew who stated that he did not care how many trees were planted if they prevented the running up of doctors' bills!

The planting was carried out later that year and the trees are still standing into the 21st century, a noted feature as you enter the town.

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Ref 24

Cemetery Lodge (Wrawby Road)

The lodge is at the entrance to Brigg Cemetery on Wrawby Road was built in 1857, as part of the new Wrawby cum Brigg Cemetery, on ground purchased by the local Burial Board from the Elwes family.

The lodge was built to provide living quarters for the sexton or warden of the burial ground.

A carved stone (WcB) above the entrance door of the lodge marks that this cemetery is for the parish of Wrawby cum Brigg.

The original three-acre site has two chapels of rest erected in the centre of the ground, connected by an archway with an elegant spire. The chapel on the west side was for the use of the established church and the east side for dissenters (those who disagree or reject the doctrines of the established church).

The buildings and the layout of the cemetery was designed by architects Bellamy and Hardy of Lincoln, who designed many similar cemeteries in Lincolnshire and the north of England.

The large prominent Horse Chestnut tree next to the lodge (which is now a private dwelling) is believed to have been there before the cemetery was laid out.

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Ref 25

Commonwealth Graves (Brigg Cemetery)

There are 50 Commonwealth Graves in Brigg cemetery commemorating the resting place of those killed in World War1 and World War 2.

A section at the south end of the cemetery contains several memorials to the fallen who were not from the local area, and include those from Canada, New Zealand and other parts of the world. A smaller number of memorials for those from the local area are situated in various locations within the main cemetery.

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Ref 26

Signal Box (Bigby Road Crossing)

Erected in 1885, this is a rare surviving example of a North of England Cabin type signal box.

When it was first opened there was a large metal wheel at the side which the signal man used to open the gates. Following the closure in the 1920s of the Brigg West Signal Box, this signal box assumed sole charge of all rail movements in and out of Brigg Station, and the sidings, which included a goods depot, coal yard and a livestock dock. The sidings have long since vanished and the wooden gates have been replaced with automatic barriers.

Oranges were brought from southern Spain in special wagons and taken to the local Springs Delights factory to make its famous marmalade.

For many years it was used by children and local trainspotters who recorded details of the various locomotives passing through. The sidings were removed a long time ago and the heavy wooden gates have been replaced by automatic barriers.

In 1945, during the end of World War 2, Mr Walter Ward the Signaller on duty, was alerted by his colleague at Hibaldstow, that smoke had been seen coming from an overheated axle box (a component of a train's wheelset that houses the roller bearings supporting the train's wheels), on a train on its way through Brigg. Signaller Ward knew that this was an ammunition train and stopped the train close to his signal box where there was a good supply of water. He succeeded in extinguishing the fire. The train had been carrying 500 tons of high explosives for the US forces overseas.

He had prevented a major incident and may have saved many lives in the town; He was given a commendation and was awarded one Guinea (£1.05).

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Ref 27

The Old National School (Princes Street)

This church school was built in 1855 for the teaching of 200 children and included accommodation for the Master next door. Whites Trade Directory in 1856 records that Mr J Probart was the Master with two other teachers.

Above the school there is a small bell tower which housed a reclaimed ships bell, used for many years to signal the start of the school day. This bell has long since been taken down but is still kept within the building.

In recent years it has been used as a library for Brigg and a restaurant, it is currently occupied by a bed shop and a pizza takeaway.

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Ref 28

The Old Post Office Keystone (Bigby Street)

Built in 1936 by local builder Mr R M Phillips, it was originally to have a keystone above the door commemorating King Edward VIII, as it was to be the first Post Office to bear the initials 'ER'. However, the centre stone had to be changed following the abdication of King Edward VIII and replaced with 'GR' after the accession of King George VI.

It was opened in 1936 by Lady Womersley, wife of the Assistant Post-Master General, who was presented with a gold key by the local builder Mr R M Phillips.

To further celebrate the opening of the Post Office, the first twenty pensioners to come in for their pensions, were given a one shilling postal order, donated by Brigg Urban District Council.

The site of the Post Office was previously occupied by Stringers Temperance Hotel, and further buildings including the Quaker Meeting House on the corner of Garden Street.

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Ref 29

The Exchange

The Exchange was built in 1760 as 'The dwelling of a man of substance' and was known locally as 'The Old House'.

It was known to have at one time been owned by a Lawyer Robert Owston. It was sold in 1862 and became a private finishing school for girls, run by Miss Kate Munday. After the turn of the 20th century, it was turned into a school, for both girls and boys - under the leadership of Mrs Percy Hawkrigge. It was a novel building, in that the school playground was on the roof. The school closed in 1910.

It was purchased by a group of wealthy farmers for use as a social club, and renamed the Exchange Club. Reportedly a great deal of money was won and lost over the 'King William' card tables and the billiard table, both of which are still in place today.

In 1944 as D-Day approached the then Prime minister Winston Churchill stayed at the Exchange club after a visit to Scunthorpe, probably to see the preparations for the World War 2 D-Day landings in Normandy, France (1944), and to have a top-secret discussion with Barnes Wallis, the inventor of the 'Bouncing Bomb'.

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In wartime, the Exchange roof was found to be ideal for the Civil Defence fire watchers and Observer Corps. It was also home to the Home Guard or “

‘Dads Army’. In 1984 this legacy came to light when a sealed room was discovered filled with guns, uniforms and paperwork from the period.

In the 1970’s Joseph Mullen bought the premises and totally renovated and restored the house to its former glory and opened it as The Exchange Coach House Inn. He built a courtyard and several new rooms for the hotel. He also held a late licence and had Briggs first nightclub venue. Mr Mullen owned the property for 38 years. The building retains many of its historic features.

The exchange is reputed to be haunted - with ghostly footsteps, phantom figures and the ghost of a little girl, Florence Millson, who fell from the roof at age 13 in 1903.



Ref 30

The Exchange Policeman (Exchange Courtyard)

This metal caricature known as the ‘Laughing Policeman’ stands in a courtyard connecting Bigby Street and Wrawby Street at the Exchange Hotel.

It was placed there at the request of the then owner of the Exchange and marks the retirement of a well-known and respected local police Sargeant Robbin Triffit in 1990.

It depicts a local ‘Bobby’ stood next to a lamp post and is the work of a local sculptor Rex Howson. It maybe acts as a gentle reminder of law and order when

visiting this popular hostelry, and it could be said a good example of silent policing!

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Supporting Information *(Reference Material)*



Ref 31

Church of St John the Evangelist

The Church stands on the site of a smaller former Chapel of Ease, that was built in 1699.

As the town grew it was decided to build the present church in 1843, but it only functioned as a chapel of ease until it became a Parish church with its own vicar in 1872. Previously the Parish Church had been St Marys at Wrawby. The tower houses six bells installed in 1875.

The Lamb Inn was on the east side of the church until it closed at the end of the 19th century and the land and building was purchased by the church. In 1952 this building was demolished, and the present church hall was built.

On the waste ground next to the Church, stood the Free Methodist Church built in 1865, providing worship for 300 people. This was demolished in the 1960s.

Brigg Illustrated Heritage Trail

Supporting Information *(Reference Material)*



Ref 32

The Dying Gladiator (Bigby Street)

The building was purchased by Mr William Clark at the end of the 18th century and converted into a public house, listed in a trade directory in 1841.

Mr Clark was a well-travelled man and had visited many cities in Europe including Rome and Florence. He was also an accomplished sculptor and created the replica above the doorway, possibly taking his inspiration from an original statue of the Dying Gaul in Rome. He decided to name his Inn the Dying Gladiator.

The pub passed down the family until the 1960s when William Clark's grandson, Cyril, vacated the business after 40 years as Landlord. A small marble miniature of the sculpture was displayed behind the bar for many years. It is believed to be the only public house called the Dying Gladiator in the UK.

After over a century above the doorway time took its toll and the original head and hand became damaged and replaced with a different head. Rumour has it that the existing head was modelled on a previous landlord's likeness.

Brigg Illustrated Heritage Trail

Supporting Information *(Reference Material)*

Ref 33

St John's window (Church of St John the Evangelist)

The east window, (St Johns Window) was replaced in 1976 at the bequest of Mrs T G Richards.

The window depicts: (L-R)

- *Left Panel:*
St David, the patron saint of Wales - below is depicted The Chapel of Ease.
- *Centre Panel:*
Christ in Glory - below is depicted The Buttercross.
- *Right Panel:*
St John the Evangelist holds St Johns Church in his arms - below is depicted The County Bridge.



This window is in commemoration of her husband Mr Wilfrid Richards who was born in Wales and was a Master at Brigg Grammar School for many years.



Brigg Illustrated Heritage Trail

Supporting Information *(Reference Material)*



Ref 34

Millenium Green: The Beacon

The Millenium Green was a project for the year 2000. Originally it was run by a trust but later it was taken on by Brigg Town Council. It has walkways, a grassed area, seating and an outdoor gym.

In February 2022 a new beacon was installed on the Millenium Green in time for celebrations in June 2022 for the Her Majesty Queen Elizabeths Platinum Jubilee.

It replaced the earlier

beacons on either side of Station Road near Hewson House. They were lit on 1st January 1993 to commemorate the start of the European Community. They were also lit at the start of the Millenium.

Brigg Illustrated Heritage Trail

Supporting Information *(Reference Material)*



Ref 35

Holocaust Memorial

Sited on the Green is the Holocaust Memorial. It consists of six triangular pillars of varying heights around a Star of David set into the ground. Seated on the tallest pillar is a symbolic figure.

It was designed by a year 10 schoolgirl Izzy Roberts from Sir John Nelthorpe School, after a competition which included local schools. It cost around £5,000.00 to build and the cost was raised by local Businesses and Brigg Town Council.

The Holocaust Memorial was opened on 30th January 2019. Each year, around the end of

January, a simple ceremony to provide an opportunity for reflection regarding the atrocities of war is held, a candle is lit, and 10 stones placed on the memorial to the memory of the 10 million people who perished in the holocaust at the hands of the Nazi regime.

Brigg Illustrated Heritage Trail

Supporting Information *(Reference Material)*



Ref 36

The Brigg Bronze Age 'Raft' (The Brigg Raft)

The Raft is almost 3,000 years old dating back to 800 BC.

The remains of the sewn-plank boat known as the Brigg 'Raft' were found in 1888 by workmen who were digging clay on the spur of land between the Old River and New River Ancholme. The area was then, and still is, occupied by the Brigg Boat Club and locally known as Island Carr. The Raft was openly on display, it was documented and photographed but left in situ and later covered up again.

The name 'Raft' is used to distinguish it from the Brigg dug-out Log boat which had been excavated nearby only a few years earlier. The raft is more properly known as a "Sewn Plank Boat". The construction of which is explained at the beginning of the display (Gallery 1).

The dug-out log boat was housed in the Hull Municipal Museum and destroyed by an incendiary in 1943 during the bombing of Hull in World War 2. Nothing but ashes were left of this boat.

Brigg Illustrated Heritage Trail

Supporting Information *(Reference Material)*

In 1973 a test dig was made to see whether the site of the raft could be found. This proved successful and a full archaeological dig was undertaken in 1974, under the supervision of Professor Sean McGrail.

It was lifted in sections and taken to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich for preservation. It was planned to go on display in a purpose-built archaeology shed. Unfortunately, the funding for this never materialised so the raft was not put on display at that time.

Councillor Rob Waltham's wish was to see the raft returned to Brigg and put on public display. Plans for a Heritage Centre came about, making use of the former Angel Hotel building which had been used as local Council Offices.

Negotiations took place with representatives from the North Lincolnshire Council and the North Lincolnshire Museum Services. Visits were made to the Maritime Museum and funding was sought.

Once agreement had been reached that the raft could be 'on loan', arrangements were made to clean off the excess build-up of "wax" which had formed in the preservation process. This was a specialist task which was undertaken by the York Archaeological Trust and The Raft had to be transported to York for this work to be carried out.

The Brigg Raft was finally ready for installation a special display case had been made and two members of the York Archaeological Trust came in March 2013 to carefully piece it together again.

The display contains only the remains of the raft around half of it had already rotted away. Although Brigg Heritage Centre Opened in 2012 – the official launch of the Raft Exhibition was on 9th May 2013, when Professor Sean McGrail, who led the 1974 dig, returned and he gave a talk about his experiences and theory that it might not have been a flat bottomed but a round-hulled boat.

Professor McGrail (1928-2021) was visiting Professor of Maritime Archaeology at Oxford University.

Brigg Illustrated Heritage Trail

Supporting Information *(Reference Material)*



Ref 37 (also 2)

The Angel (reprise)

In the 15th century the famous Angel Inn was already in existence near the bridge over the river and facing the Market Place.

Parts of this historic hostelry, with its trumpeting Angel (above the main entrance) are very ancient, and it has played a long and important role in the life of the town. In its glazed courtyard - festooned with greenery, the farmers and merchants from many miles around met on market day, as they had for many a year, to transact their business, while also enjoying the convivial company and the good food and drink, for which the inn is noted.

The Angel figure has presided over Marketplace for many-a-year in various guises. Unfortunately, today the incumbent figure is a 'fallen angel' – hoping to return soon!