

## **BCVS Monthly Column – Worksop Guardian**

**Author for June – Fran Walker**



### **Pride in our Roots: Embracing Bassetlaw's Cultural Heritage**

Every time I stand in front of the magnificent Priory Gatehouse, I feel so much pride. This architectural masterpiece, standing tall for over 900 years, is not just a symbol of Bassetlaw's rich heritage, but a testament to the resilience and ingenuity of those who came before us. As a trustee for the Gatehouse Trust, I consider myself fortunate to be part of a dedicated team working tirelessly to keep the history alive and maintain this beautiful building.

Bassetlaw is blessed with rich heritage that tells captivating stories of our past.

At BCVS, heritage is one of our many passions. We believe in the importance of preserving our history and using it to connect with the community around us.

This year, as BCVS celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, we embark on a journey to explore and document our own heritage. We reflect on how we have grown, the buildings that have housed us over the years, and the profound connection we share with the Priory Gatehouse, one of our former homes.

As we attempt to do this, we invite anyone with an interest in heritage and history to join us. We would love to hear from those who understand the value of our past and can help us document and record our journey. We believe that understanding our roots is crucial in shaping our future, and we are keen to share our story with anyone that wants to hear it.

Exciting times also lie ahead for heritage organisations in Bassetlaw, with the upcoming release of the levelling-up (UKSPF) funding. This funding aims to support the exploration of fresh ideas and innovative approaches to attract visitors and generate interest in the place we all come home. We encourage all heritage organisations in Bassetlaw to consider applying for this funding once it opens. There will be plenty of potential to unlock new avenues for growth and engagement.

To support with this, we have recently established the Bassetlaw Heritage Network. This is a collaborative meeting point, where heritage organisations can come together, share ideas, discover funding, and support one another in their shared missions. Via this network, we hope to create a vibrant and interconnected heritage community that strengthens our collective impact.

As residents of Bassetlaw, we should all take immense pride in our area. By simply opening our eyes, we will uncover so much on our own doorstep. From the magnificent Priory Gatehouse to the two windmills, various museums, the caves at Creswell Crags, Clumber Park, and so much more - our heritage is something we should all be very proud of.

In this milestone year for BCVS, as we celebrate our past and look towards our future.

I urge everyone to embark on their own journey of discovery by embracing the rich heritage of Bassetlaw.

Together, let us safeguard our history, support our heritage organisations, and inspire others to appreciate the stories that have shaped Bassetlaw.

If you are interested in joining the Bassetlaw Heritage Network please visit [www.bcv.s.orf.uk/bhn](http://www.bcv.s.orf.uk/bhn).

If you are interested in volunteering as a BCVS Heritage Champion, please email [involve@bcvs.org.uk](mailto:involve@bcvs.org.uk).