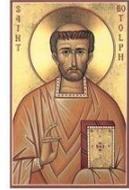




# The Botolphian

Newsletter of  
The Society of Saint Botolph

[www.botolph.info](http://www.botolph.info)



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Issue Number 3.

1<sup>st</sup> June 2013.

## Highlights this month

- Barton Seagrave Church.
- 17 June 2013 Saint Botolph's Day.
- Article from Boston Massachusetts.
- Great Eversden mystery.
- Shotesham discovery.
- Luncheon, Cambridge, 9 Oct 13.

## Editorial

This has been a very exciting month from the point of view of correspondence. I have received two very good leads on Botolph Churches - one possible new one at Great Eversden and another recently unearthed at Shotesham (see both below).

This is very gratifying as it shows that the newsletter is doing exactly as I hoped by acting as a forum.

Membership is still growing nicely. Many of you are doing a grand job by spreading the word. Please keep up your good work as every person added to the membership list increases the range of this newsletter and helps to raise the profile of Saint Botolph. The contents of this issue prove that it is a powerful tool for uncovering mysteries that surround his life and work. The actual power of this tool relies on numbers though, so *please please* tell your friends and get them to register on the website: [www.botolph.info](http://www.botolph.info). Thank you.

# B

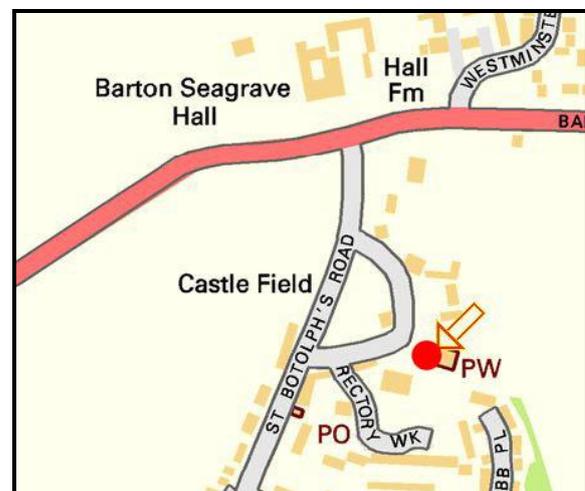
arton Seagrave.

**Approach:** *Heading south-east from Kettering down the London Road, bear left along Barton Road and pass the Tresham Institute on your left. The road dips down and crosses the remnants of the River Ise before rising again*

*when you will find Vine's Restaurant (Barton Seagrave Hall) on your left where you turn right into St. Botolph's Road and then immediately turn left into the crescent which lies in front of the church.*



**Key:** *The church is normally kept locked. For access go to Church House (the old rectory) to the right of the church. There is an intercom which is manned Mon - Thur 9am-1pm. Best to telephone them on 01536 414-052 in advance.*



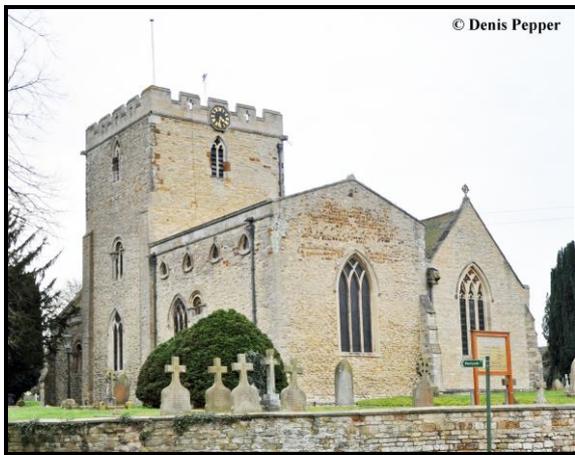
**Contact:** *The Rectory, St. Botolph's Road, Kettering NN156SR Tel:01536 513629/414052*

**Location:** *52.3844, -0.6961, NN15.*

### **Foundation of the site:**

The first record of a church on this site was in a charter dated 1122 when it became the property of Kenilworth Priory. It consisted of a nave, central tower and chancel.

Massive restoration works were completed in c.1878 when the old nave became the North aisle and a new South aisle (now the main nave) was added together with a new chancel. Further restoration work was undertaken in 1987.



### **Origin of the village's name.**

The village was named after Baron Nicholas de Segrave (c.1238-1295) who was prominent during the reign of King Henry III and who built the now-ruined castle that bears his name. 'Barton' has two meanings: 'the lands of a manor' or 'barley fields'.

### **Items of interest within the church:-**

1. Tympanum: above the fine C16 north door. In the middle of the tympanum is a human face



with a grotesque monster on either side, one of which appears to have a human head in its mouth. The story of this scenario is unknown although it has been suggested that it purports to reflect the story of St. Edmund's head being returned by a wolf. The Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture says however that the lower animals are lions.

2. Font: This is plain and cylindrical and dates from C12. Four grooves remain to show where the cover was locked in place and repairs can be seen where Cromwell's soldiers caused damage when they ripped it off in the hope of finding hidden valuables.

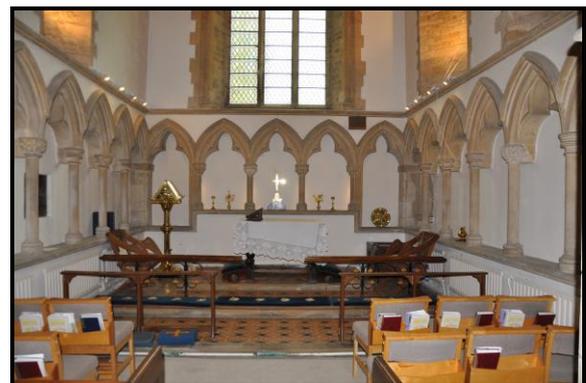
3. Carved heads: on the corbels supporting the nave roof timbers. These were once thought to represent the faces of the monks of Kenilworth Priory to which the church belonged but now, less romantically, they are thought to be 'stock' sculptures.

4. Piscina: C13 in the chancel. This was moved here from the chantry chapel when it was demolished in 1878.

5. Hagioscope (Squint): in the south wall of the tower.

6. The sad 1616 brass memorial to Jane Floyde in the Lady Chapel.

7. Also in the Lady Chapel the beautiful C13 arcading which was covered up during Victorian times and exposed comparatively recently.



8. The church is a rarity in having a complete ring of four Pre-Reformation bells. Another bell was added in 1903 and three more in 2000.

### **Relevance of the church to Botolph's life:**

This church was not built until 400 years after Saint Botolph's death. Anne Pegg tells me "There is no documented evidence of a dedication other than in wills - St. John in C15

and C16 and St. Botolph or St. John in C18." One wonders if the church was originally dedicated to Saint Botolph and then changed its patronage due to the influence of the Knights Templars in the baronial 'Segrave' Hall.

The original Roman road to the west passed well to the north to avoid marshy ground. By the time of the Norman Conquest, streams had silted up and a new road further to the south became feasible. It is likely that it was this that accounted for the development of the new village of Barton Seagrave with its church situated close to the crossing of the River Ise. At such a site it would be surprising if the church were *not* dedicated to Saint Botolph, the then Patron Saint of Travellers.

### Places of Interest in the vicinity:

Sadly there is nothing close that really seems to be worth visiting but south-west of the church lies the (virtually invisible) foundations of Barton Seagrave Castle (C14).

Barton Seagrave Hall (C16) has a beautiful Grade I listed Orangery in its grounds.

Nearest other Botolph Churches: Stoke Albany 14 miles NW; Church Brampton 19 miles SW.

*My grateful thanks to Anne Pegg for her hospitality and assistance with these details.*

I must say that I was very impressed with Barton Seagrave church, - which attracts large congregations. This does not surprise me because inside it is warm (in two senses of the word) and comfortable and clean and welcoming. The décor picks out and enhances the ancient stone arches and there are cushioned seats instead of pews.



### Focus on Botolph:

I am afraid that there is no space for a 'Focus' this month due to the large amount of correspondence.

## Celebrations of Saint Botolph's Day 2013

2nd June at ST BOTOLPH WITHOUT ALDGATE with All Age Eucharist at 1030 followed by a Parish Picnic. All are welcome. (It's early because it is Revd Laura's last Sunday as she is going on maternity leave - so good luck Laura - how about considering 'Botolph' for a middle name?)

15th June at NEWBOLD-ON-AVON with a Mad Hatter's Fete and Craft Fayre from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

15th June at HADSTOCK: 2 pm to 5 pm Village Fete.

15th June at SHEPSHED: 7.15 pm Barn Dance (Strung Out Ceilidh Band) in Church Hall. Tickets: £10 inc. light refreshment - from Isobel 01509 507-778 or Colin 01509 504-638.

16th June at NEWBOLD-ON-AVON - Special Saint Botolph Service at 1045 a.m.

16th June at HORSEHOUSE: 11 a.m. Family Communion with a Saint Botolph theme.

16th June at HADSTOCK: Communion Service at 11 a.m.

16th June at SHEPSHED: Concert (Leicester South Salvation Army Band) followed by Bring&Share Tea & Songs of Praise at 6 pm. Donations on exit. Bring a friend.

19th June at LONDON BISHOPSGATE - 1.10 pm CHORAL FESTIVAL SERVICE (full Choir) Preacher: The Rt Revd Stephen Platten, Lord Bishop of Wakefield Te Deum in C—Britten; Lift up your heads, O ye gates—Amner. All are most welcome to join us and to stay for refreshments after the service. News of further events on this day will appear on the website [www.botolph.org.uk](http://www.botolph.org.uk).

23rd June at COLCHESTER (The church is right next door to the magnificent ruins of St. Botolph's Priory) - Communion at 9.45 a.m. (with very special music) followed by 'brunch'.

29th June at IKEN. N.B. **NOT 29th July** as I previously erroneously stated.

At 12 p.m. the Collegiate Church of the Ikon of the Mother of God 'Joy of All Who Sorrow' (Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia), will be making their Pilgrimage to Iken. There will be a service of intercession to Saint Botolph including a newly-composed Akathist. They will also be taking along a rather splendid Ikon painted by Efrem Carrasco (which I had not seen before Mark Tattum-Smith was kind enough to send me a print of it). The pilgrimage will be followed by a picnic - we wish them good weather. Two of the London St. Botolph's churches, namely ALDGATE and BISHOPSGATE will also be joining in this service so it is going to be a magnificent event.

### Readers' Letters and Emails

1. I was delighted to hear from an old(!) but still bright-eyed school-friend of mine, Paul Kemsley, who had spotted an anomaly at *Great Eversden* where the church is dedicated to St. Mary but the farm nearby is called 'St. Botolph's Rectory Farm.' I have been up to my ears in university work this month so have not had time to investigate further although Paul's comment brought me into contact with Dominic Shelley who is a former archaeologist who has

an interest in the village. If anyone can shed any light on this I would be grateful.

2. I was pleased to hear from one of our 'Cousins across the Pond' - namely Alex Bailey, a student at ***Boston College High School, Massachusetts*** who kindly sent this article about *their* 'Botolphian'

On the eighteenth of March, 1915, Boston College High School's oldest co-curricular and first publication was conceived and, soon after, published: *The Botolphian*, now nearing its hundredth year.

Taking its name from Boston's original name, St. Botolph's town, the magazine was originally amorphous. A sort of catch all publication, it served as literary magazine, as a bulletin of happenings, as the forum for a series of public, political debates and, with 1928's *The Democratic Liberator* segment, a place of spoof and lampoon.

Today, it is but a literary magazine. Over the previous century, many of the school's other publications appeared: *The Eagle*, a newspaper and *Renaissance*, the yearbook are notable among them. As these arose, *The Botolphian* was slowly whittled down to its current incarnation.

It has fostered several talents, most notable being novelist Dennis Lehane, whose first published story appeared in 1981's *Botolphian*.

In 2012, *The Botolphian*, along with BC High's other student publications, went digital. It is currently hosted out of a blog and continues to upload new student writing, all from student contributors and evaluated by student editors.

- So *their* Botolphian was a forum too. I do not like to think of Botolph being 'whittled down' but glad to see that he is keeping up with modern media. Thank you Alex.

3. I also heard from "*Guy Williams at Skidbrooke Cyder Company, the home of St. Botolph's Pure Apple Juice*" (as he announces himself). I took the opportunity to call in on him when visiting my cousin in Louth and I can thoroughly recommend his products. He tells me that his wife says that he has 'clay feet' and never moves far from home but I am hoping he will come to our Annual Luncheon and that we shall have his very flavoursome St. Botolph's Apple Juice on the tables - and available to purchase to take home.

4. Michael Knights emailed me from Shotesham where I knew that there was a ruined St Botolph's church but I was not sure of its location. He said:-

Thanks to someone in the village, I received a copy of your new newsletter and simply had to write to you to tell you about the recently uncovered remains of a medieval Church dedicated to St Botolph.

I will send you some more information in due course and a photo, if you wish? We know very little about the Church which seems to have been ruined and abandoned in the 17th cent? In our village we have another more substantial ruin dedicated to St Martin and two living mediaeval Churches. All Saints and St Mary.

I found this very exciting news; pictures and emails have flashed to and fro and I look forward to following the progress of the local historians so I hope Michael will keep me updated.

### **Membership**

Membership now stands at 185 compared to 123 last month ... but we still need more. Please tell your friends.

### **Social Events: Annual Luncheon.**

**An occasion not to be missed.**

### **Wednesday 9th October 2013 at 12.30 for 1pm**

From the correspondence I have received about this, the general consensus is that Cambridge is more central and convenient for everyone.

On that basis therefore I have made a tentative booking with the ***University Arms Hotel in Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1AD***. They will be charging us £19 per person which includes a two course lunch with tea and coffee and includes the hire of the room. There will also be a speaker. From the photographs, the accommodation (the Cromwell Suite) looks quite luxurious.

They can only accommodate 30 in this room however so ***please email me with numbers as soon as possible to reserve your place and avoid disappointment.***

### **Regular Endnotes**

If this is your first 'Botolphian' and you would like to receive an email copy each month then just send an email to [botolph@virginmedia.com](mailto:botolph@virginmedia.com) saying 'YES PLEASE.'  
If you wish to UNsubscribe then send the message 'NO THANKS.'

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Folkestone, Kent. 1st May 2013.