

BRIGG'S
No.1
HERITAGE
DESTINATION

CURIOUS CASES



*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*

OBJECTS GUIDE

THE ONLINE EXHIBITION VERSION: Compiled by Brigg Heritage Centre

Brigg Heritage Centre is the operating name of The Ancholme Valley Heritage Trust Ltd. Charity No: 1157731

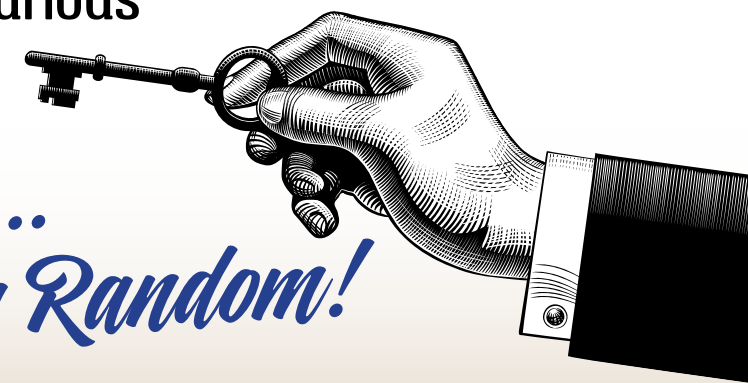


CURIOUS CASES

***An eclectic and eccentric
celebration of the curio!***

Welcome to Brigg Heritage Centre's latest display. In this exhibition we showcase 'no rules' objects - ancient, modern and anywhere betwixt.

As we endeavour promote our local heritage (and support our permanent collection) included here are items of local origin, alongside objects from a diverse and more far-reaching sources: **unique, enigmatic, mysterious!** We aim to pique your interest in 'the unusual' of what was once considered 'everyday' and delve deeper into the: facts > legends > stories > experiences - which enables each 'curious case' to be a key for...



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CURIOUS CASES

1

WAIFS AND STRAYS SOCIETY (Charity Box - The Children's Society)

PLEASE HELP THE "WAIFS AND STRAYS"

The depiction of the children definitely hits home the plight of the children and just how lucky we are.

The 'direction' from the top of the box: "Please put ONE OR MORE PENNIES A WEEK in this box and a small additional offering on Festivals and Holidays".

- Item donated by
Mr Campion: October 2015

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A Very Large Cup (WW1)

GOOD LUCK TO THE ALLIES - FOR RIGHT AND FREEDOM

World War I (1914-1918) was one of the deadliest conflicts in history, resulting in an estimated 10 million military dead and more than 20 million wounded. Little is known about this particular 'large' cup – depicting the flags of Belgium, (Old) Russia, UK and France. The decorative gold gilding is worn and the delicate handle has sustained damage. Maybe you know something relating to this or to similar items – why don't you make notes at the **VISITOR INVESTIGATION STATION**.

- Origin of item undocumented: anonymous donation

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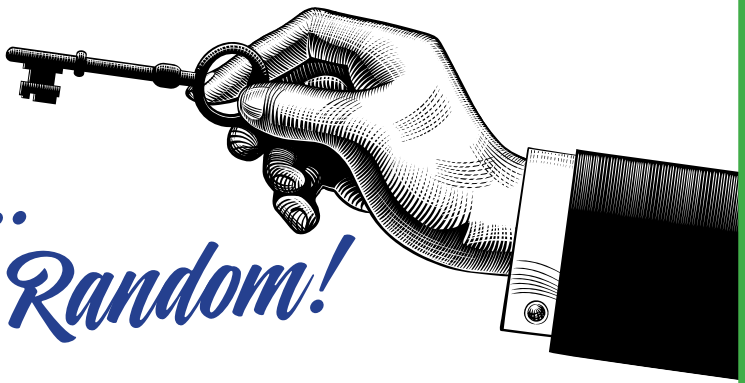
Framed Map of The River of Ankholme (sic) 1640

A MAP depicted North (to the left) and South (to the right)

This is such a fascinating artefact with Glanford Brigg at the heart of the 17th century cartograph/map.

Extract from the image: “A MAP of the Level lying upon the River Ankholme in the County of Lincolne according to XVI feet and an half to a Perch, by Franc^s. Wilkinson & John Fotherby Surveyors – 1640”.

● Item on semi-permanent loan by J. Peace: May 2016



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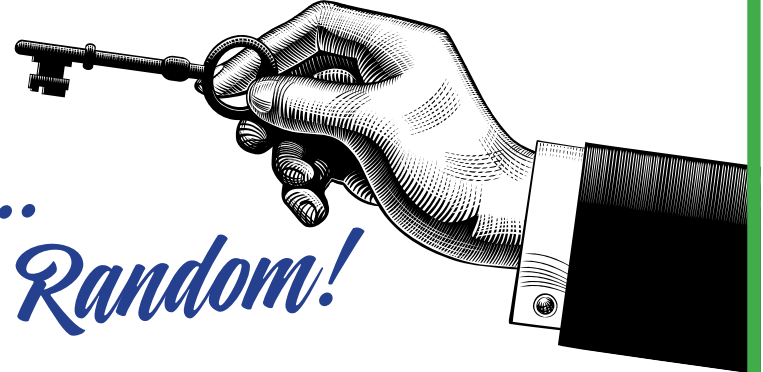
CURIOUS CASES

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The Convent School's Bell

The bell was rescued from abandoned sheds on the property of the former school. *Following text edited from Nigel Fisher's Brigg Blog from January 2021:* 'The Former Manor House Convent School, Bigby Street, dates back to the 18th century, it is a grade two listed building. The grand former Manor House, occupied by the Elwes family, was given to the Rosminian Nuns, rent free, when Gervase Elwes and his wife moved to live at Billing Hall, Northamptonshire. The nuns later obtained the freehold of the building for a nominal sum. The school closed in July 1971 on instructions from the Religious Order which ran it. Following closure, the property was converted to provide residential accommodation while the St Clares Walk cul-de-sac development occupied some of the manor house's extensive grounds. Former Lincolnshire Times journalist, Edward Dodd, devoted a page to the Convent in 1973/4 when he wrote his acclaimed Brigg book, marking the end of the Brigg Urban District Council era that stretched back to the 1890s.'

● Item on loan by
Mr J. Walker: Feb 2025



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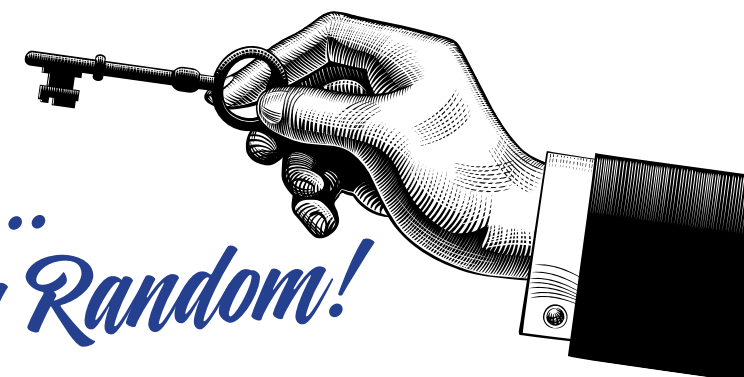
Excavation at Brigg ***(Pamphlet dated May 1974 + Image)***

THE BRIGG RAFT

The centrepiece of Brigg Heritage Centre's **Gallery 1** is the famous Bronze Age sewn-together Plank Boat or 'Brigg Raft' as it is more commonly known.

One of only two examples on display in the country, you can see how this amazing 3,000 year old ancient relic was made, what it was used for and where it was found. It is a national treasure and not to be missed.

● Item donated by
Mrs J. Heath: Feb 2025



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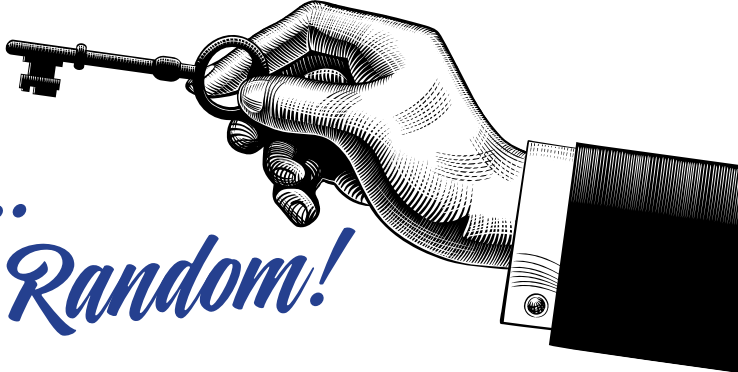
DDM Auction Particulars *(Instructed by Mr & Mrs C A Shroobree)*

COMPLETE DISPERSAL SALE: 30 August '89

The Angel Hotel, Brigg...

It is sad when long-standing businesses close and their entire contents go to auction. An Inn has stood on this site since the mid 1550s and many changes have taken place through time. Brigg Heritage Centre's home is within the old Angel Hotel. See images of the Angel Building in the **Period Room** – There was even an Angel Wine Shop on the ground floor and we also have our resident spirits!

● Item from the BHC Archive



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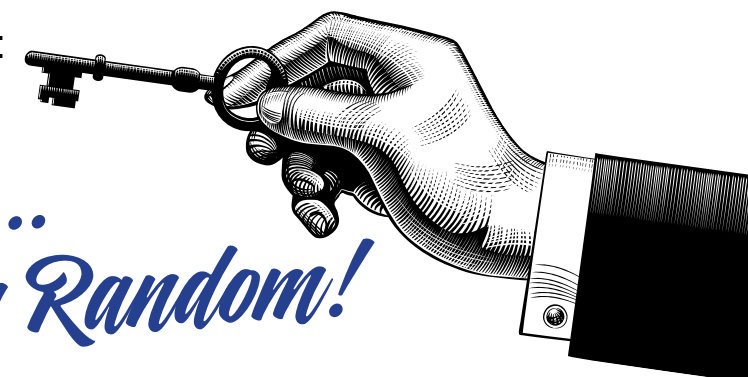
7

Royal Commemorative Plate (Celebrating the marriage of HRH Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer on Wednesday 29th July 1981)

Royal connections - Brigg is renowned for its Royal visitors:

Queen Elizabeth II in 1977 for her Silver Jubilee ([see item 44](#)), Prince Charles in 1985 ([see Item 50](#)), and Diana The Princess of Wales in 1988 and 1991 (which included marking the regeneration of The Buttercross).

- Origin of item undocumented: anonymous donation



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Angel Hotel Plate circa 1950/60



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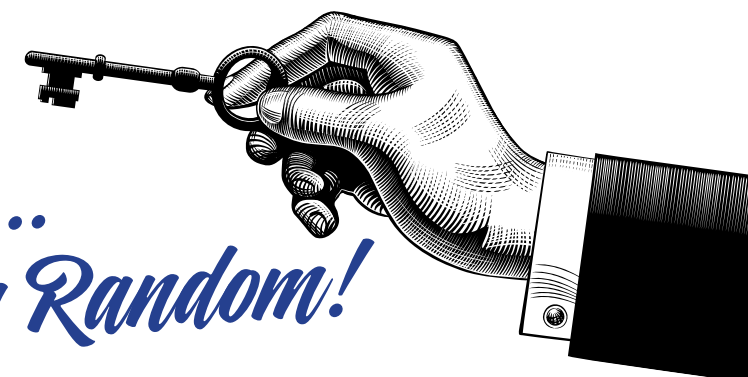
A Solitary Angel Dinner Plate

A 'crazed' relic from a bygone era

We are not sure if this plate was part of that fated DDM auction – but we are proud to be able to display this single 23cm dinner plate. Note distinctive chequer board rim pattern and the ribbon name banner.

With extensive crazing, staining and a radial crack, this fragile example dates back to the 1950s/60s. For further examples of The Angel Hotel's ceramics head to **Gallery 2**.

- Item on permanent loan by E. Brocklesby: May 2015



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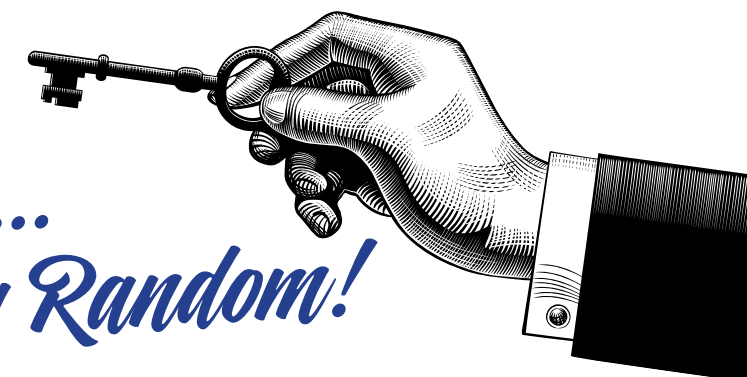
A timely look at a maritime history mystery...

...WHICH SOLVED A FAMILY CURIOSITY

Something to read... For the full story of this object - see the newspaper article from the publication: ***this is scunthorpe*** Antiques section / Thursday 25th October 2012.

"The story [of this timepiece] does show just how interesting family heirlooms can be".

● Item on loan by
Mr P. Johnson: Feb 2025



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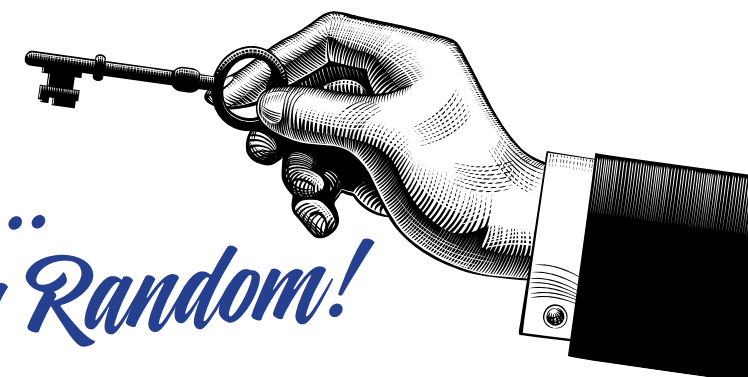
10

Tankard examples

What is a tankard? A tankard is a form of drink ware consisting of a large, roughly cylindrical, drinking cup with a single handle. In recent centuries tankards were typically made of silver or pewter, but can be made of other materials, for example glass, wood, pottery, or boiled leather.

Glass bottoms... The legend is that the glass bottomed tankard was developed as a way of refusing the King's shilling, i.e., conscription into the British Army or Navy. The drinker could see the coin in the bottom of the glass and refuse the drink, thereby avoiding conscription.

- **Solid Bottom** - BHC archive
- Glass bottom** - On loan by Mr S. Robson: Feb 2025



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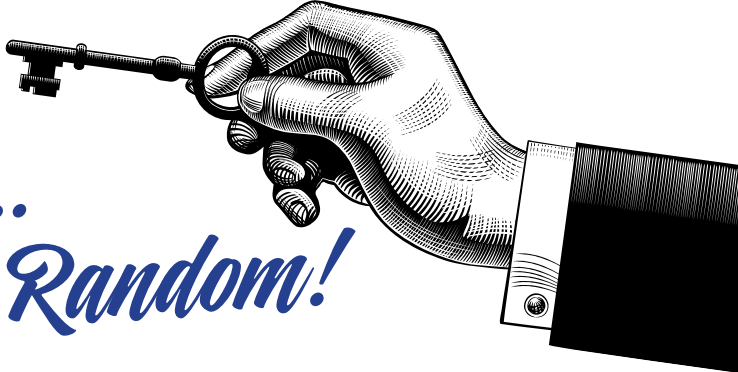
Inns of Interest (Booklet)

A Brigg public house was featured in this 1989 publication *Inns of Interest: The Brocklesby Ox*, an 18th Century Inn was located on Bridge Street and closed in 2007 and subsequently demolished and like so many hostelries of Brigg – gone but still in living memory!

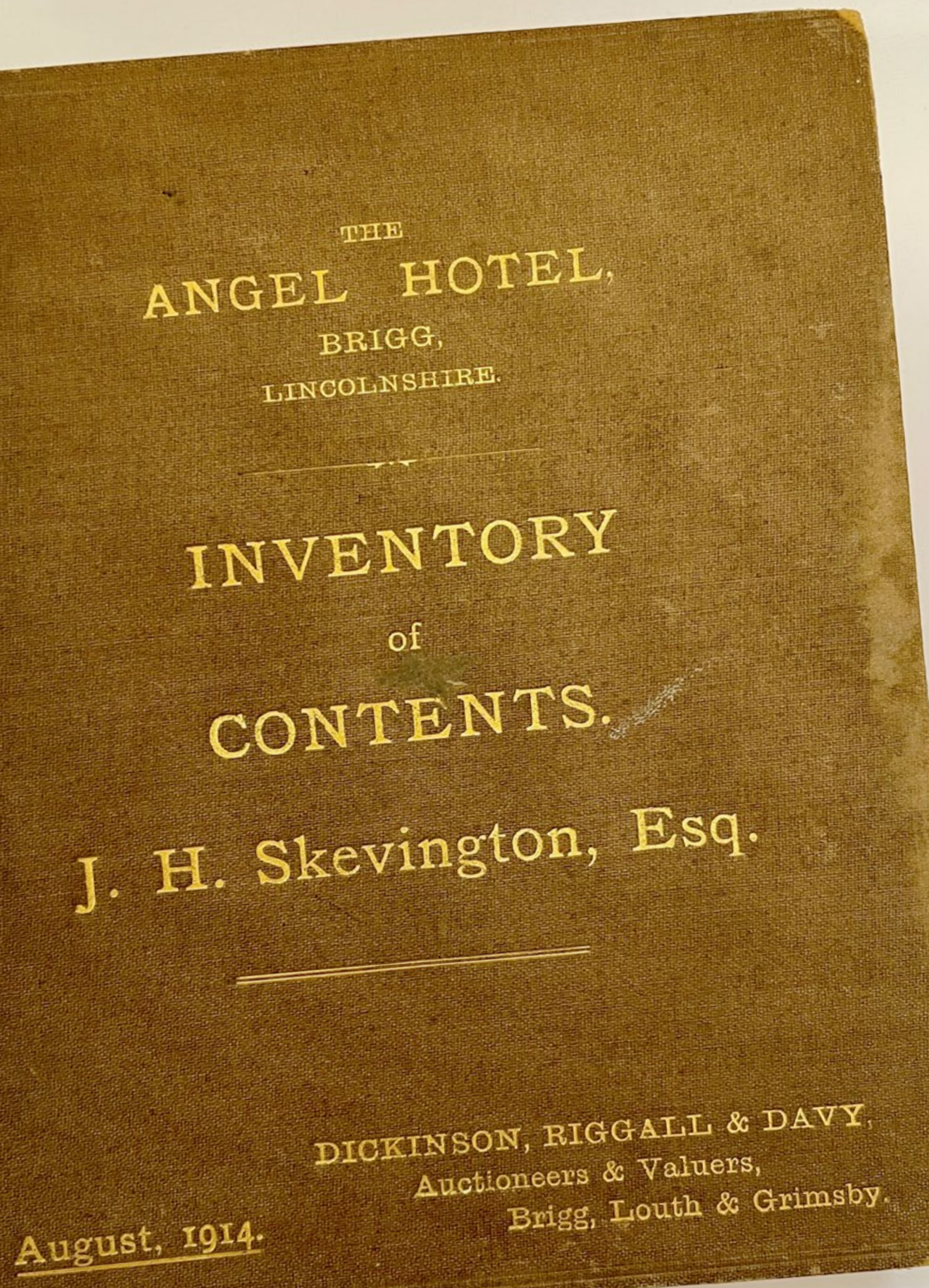


Brocklesby Ox Inn
Traditional Burtonwood Beers and
Low Alcohol Beers
Bar Meals and Lunches daily.
Traditional Sunday Lunch.
Children Welcome. Ample Parking.
BRIDGE STREET, BRIGG, SOUTH HUMBERSIDE DN20 8NN Tel: 0652-650292

● BHC Archive



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The Angel Hotel (*Brigg, Lincolnshire*)

INVENTORY of CONTENTS

This comprehensive document produced by J. H Skevington Esq. of Dickinson, Riggall & Davy – Auctioneers & Valuers, Brigg Louth & Grimsby as produced in August 1914. The document accounts an inventory of every room of the Angel Hotel and provides a unique time capsule to the beginning of WWI. *Amount of the Valuation as herein set forth, = at £2,463:3:6* (and was signed off in a flourish of green ink).

Note: Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on 28th July 1914 and Great Britain declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914.

● Item on permanent loan from Brigg Town Council: July 2023



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Defying Gravity

ORBITZ... was a non-carbonated fruit-flavoured beverage produced by The Clearly Food & Beverage Company of Canada, makers of Clearly Canadian. The drink was sold in five flavours, and made with small floating edible balls. Orbitz was marketed as a 'texturally enhanced alternative beverage' but some consumers compared it to a 'lava lamp'. It was introduced in test markets around May 1996, then went to most markets by 1997, and then quickly disappeared due to poor sales.



"I bought this bottle in February 1997 in New York City – I only purchased one – so never experienced the curiosity of a texturally enhanced alternative... choking hazard!" - GA

● Item on loan by
Mr G. Alexander: Feb 2025



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THIS BOOK
BELONGS TO

BRYAN PARKER
20 EARLSWATE GONS
WINTERTON
XMAS 1959



SECRET SEVEN FIREWORKS



Enid Blyton



CURIOUS CASES

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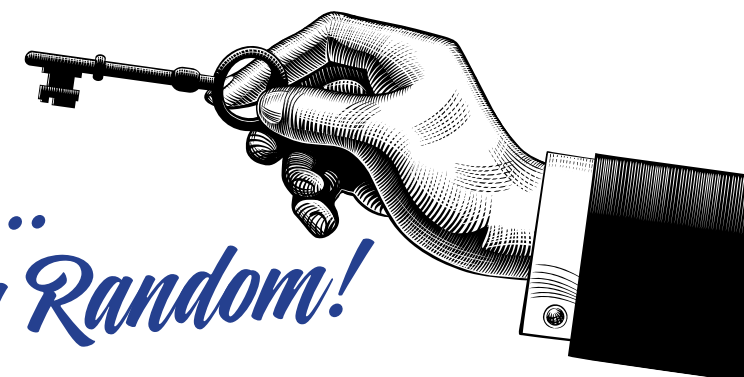
Enid Blyton's *SECRET SEVEN*

FIREWORKS - and plotting links-to-Lincs

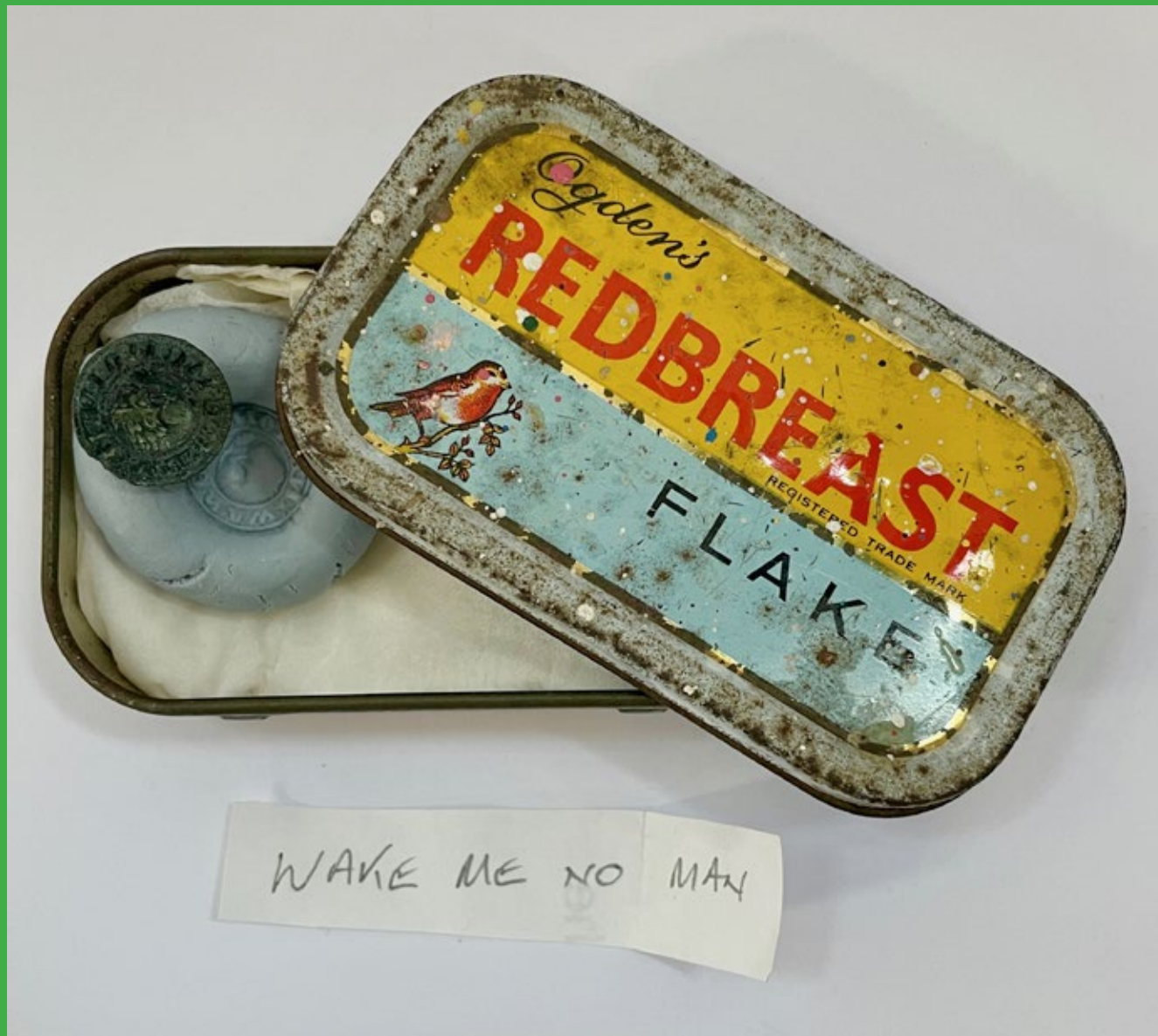
A present remember... This copy was presented to Bryan Parker of Winterton – Xmas 1959. Despite the unfortunate stain to the cloth boards of this 1st edition, the inner pages are pristine and show examples of two-colour images printed in black and red.

Curious Fact: The Gunpowder Plot may have taken place in London, but did you know the original plans were partly hatched in Lincolnshire? Twigmoor Hall at Manton, near Brigg, was once home to John Wright, one of the conspirators in the plot.

● Item on loan by
Mr G. Alexander: Feb 2025



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Waxing lyrical (Seal - possibly Medieval)

+ Ogden's Redbreast Flake Tobacco Tin

This is a extremely curious item – thought to be a ‘pendant seal’, stored within a 1920s/30s Ogden's Redbreast Flake Tobacco tin (2 ounces size) – which also is a snapshot of a bygone era. Someone has tried to decipher the seal and have come up with...

“WAKE ME NO MAN”

- Do you think it says this too?

- Origin of item undocumented:
anonymous donation

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Vesta Case (Brass)

This fascinating object is a very useful item



Why is it called a Vesta case?

Vesta cases are small portable boxes made to contain matches and keep them dry. They take their name from Vesta the Roman goddess of hearth, home and family (depicted on the coin above). The brass object on display has a taper (slender candle) holder and possibly was used as a night light.

● Item on loan by
Mr P. Johnson: Jan 2025

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Lacey & Clark

BRIG
TEL: 2132



CURIOUS CASES

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Lacey & Clark (Paper Bag)



Fond memories of shops in Brigg... Lacey & Clark Department Store was sited on Market Place and the corner of Exchange Place (which is now part of the expanded Lord Nelson Hotel). Binns also traded from the premises. The L&C paper bag survives in a very delicate state but intact. The telephone number shows only four digits BRIGG 2132.

"A shop that sold everything".

● Item donated by
Ms H. Cresswell: July 2023



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Brass Capsule

What's inside? A Manicure Set

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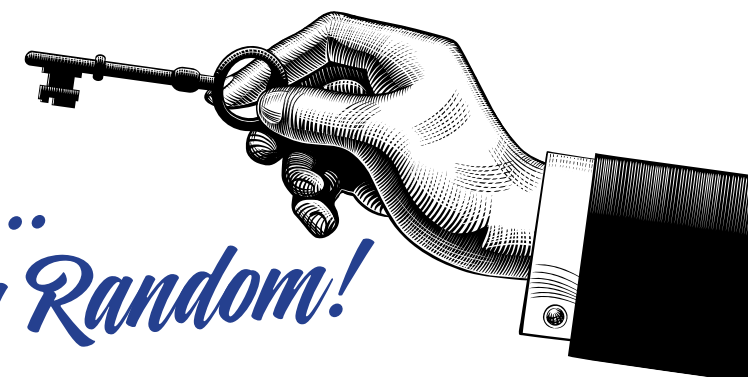
Button hooks

A Fascinating History >>>>

● Items on loan by
Mr S. Robson: Feb 2025



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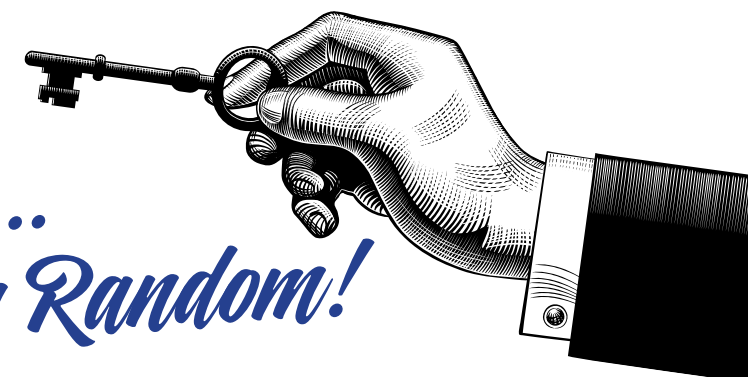
Bone Carving (WWII)

'Prisoner of War' Art

These pieces were reputed to have been made in a Prisoner of War in Lincolnshire. The work is very fine and varying intricacy of carving skill is demonstrated: A pipe in the form of an Owl: A long-handled spoon (with trident and fish detail); Ears of wheat; and A Candlestick (with separate cone candle snuffer). These items are extremely delicate and BHC hope to exhibit them permanently as part of a wide pending project – on the subject of Pingley Camp 81.

● Donated by
Ms W. Collins: Nov 2023

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Intricate Woven Bag (WWII)

'Prisoner of War' Art

This bag was made by an Italian Prisoner of War during World War II at Pingley Camp 81 located on the outskirts of Brigg. If you look closely at the bag, you will see the fine craftsmanship in the spiralled woven pattern – which makes the two panels of the bag.

What's amazing is the attention to detail, the colours and time it must have taken to construct. Maybe this bag was made as a gift for a loved one?

● BHC Archive



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Speed Weve (E. & A. Chessrok Ltd.)

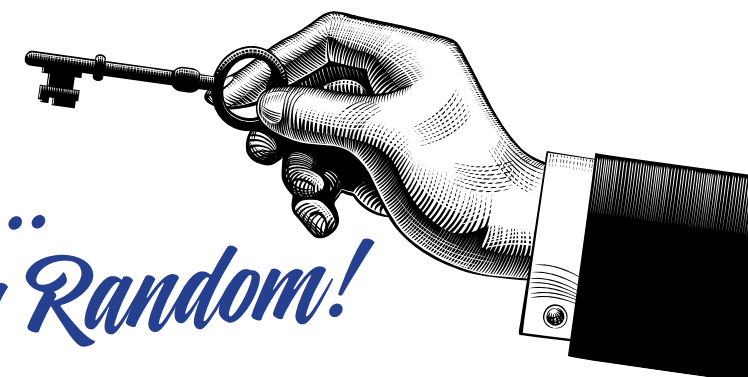
Lancashire's Smallest Loom

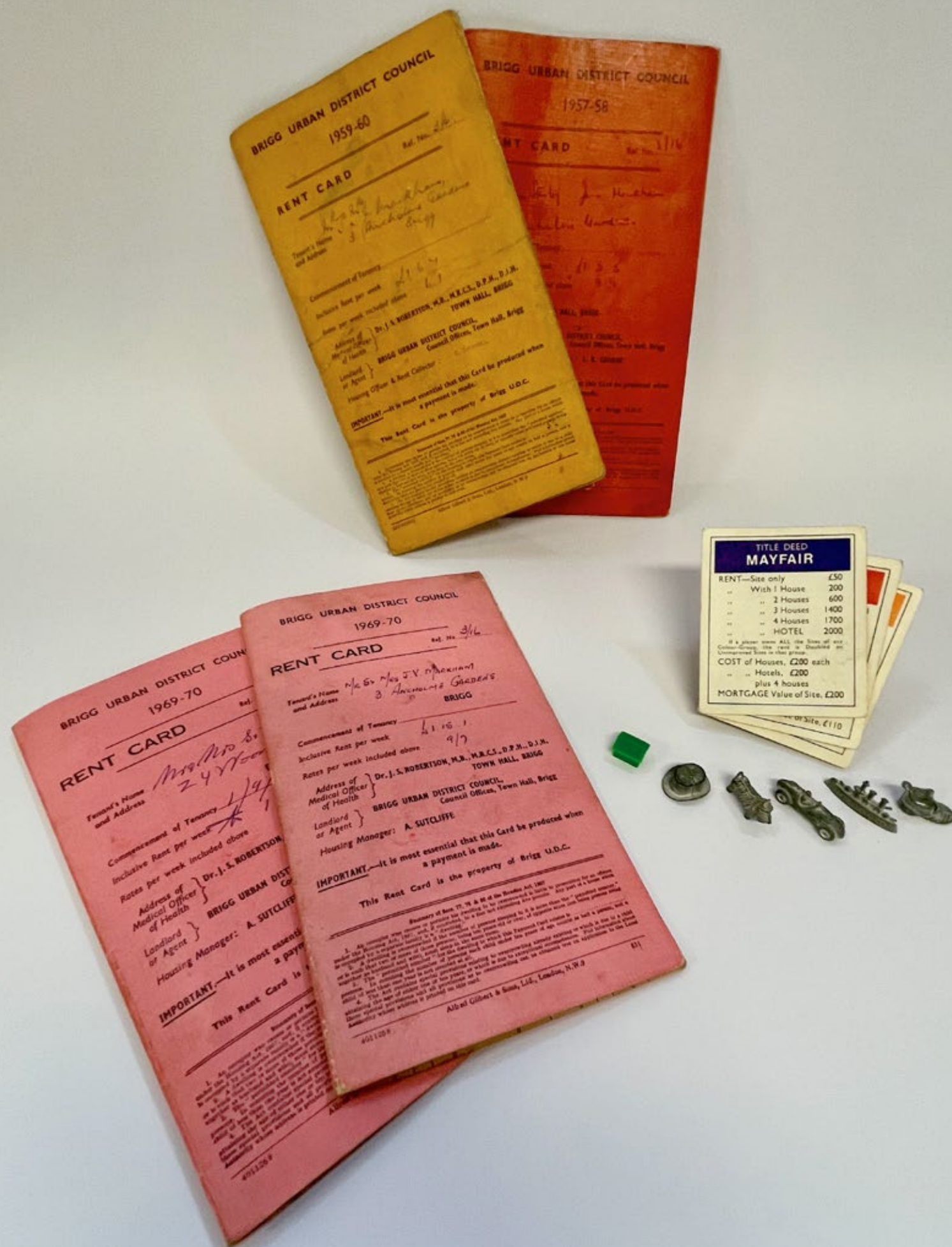
Now this is an intriguing device...

From looking at it, most would wonder where to start! Jackie Brock (one of our BHC Heritage Crafting Volunteers) now owns this Speed Weve Model 2 and remembers 'Make Do & Mend' post-war necessities and her mother using it in the 1950s to darn socks and mend clothes. It certainly looks like a complicated piece of kit – so scan the QR code to read all about this quirky and curious item at 'Ministry of Mending!'

● Item on loan by
Mrs J. Brock: Jan 2025

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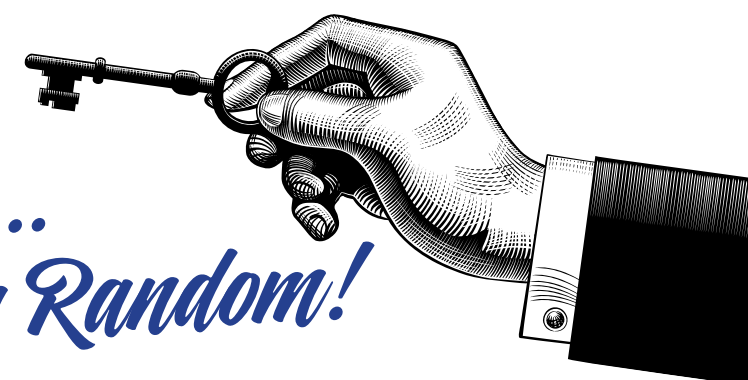
A: Rent Cards

Brigg Urban District Council

These Rent Cards of Mr S. & Mrs J. Markham show residence at 3 Ancholme Gardens 1957-58, 1959-60, 1969-70 and at 24 Woodbine Avenue 1969-70. Note the vivid colours and the hand written records – documented on the inside. The Agent/Landlord being Brigg U.D.C, Council Offices, Town Hall, Brigg. These premises are now known as The Buttercross in Market Place which was built in 1819.

Brigg Heritage Centre is now the custodian of the Buttercross upper-level and use it for fundraising via: rentals, talks, events and as a beautiful wedding venue.

- Items on loan by
Mr A. Markham: Jan 25



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B: Monopoly

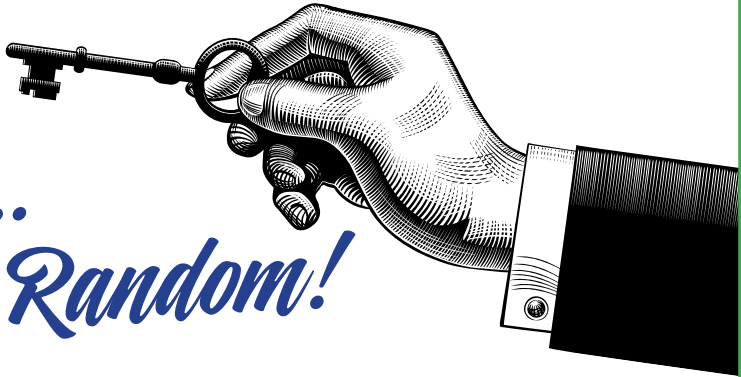
The Landlord's Game

In 1903, Elizabeth J. Magie Phillips invented The Landlord's Game, a clever game about realty and taxation. In 1933, struggling salesman Charles Darrow stole the idea. Magie had hoped to use the game to teach the principles of economist Henry George, who believed that the government should be funded solely by taxing real estate. Although she patented The Landlord's Game in 1904, she never earned a dime from the game based on it: **Monopoly**.

Darrow changed the names of properties in the game and a hit was born. When he sold the rights to Parker Brothers in 1935, he lied and said he'd made it up for his children during the worst years of the Great Depression. It would make him a millionaire. History may have all but forgotten Magie, but her hometown of Macomb, Illinois, and the true 'Birthplace of Monopoly' never did. The town has since unveiled 'Macombopoly' in remembrance. (Source: Atlas Obscura).

●

Items on loan by
Mr G. Alexander: Feb 25



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A hard one to crack!

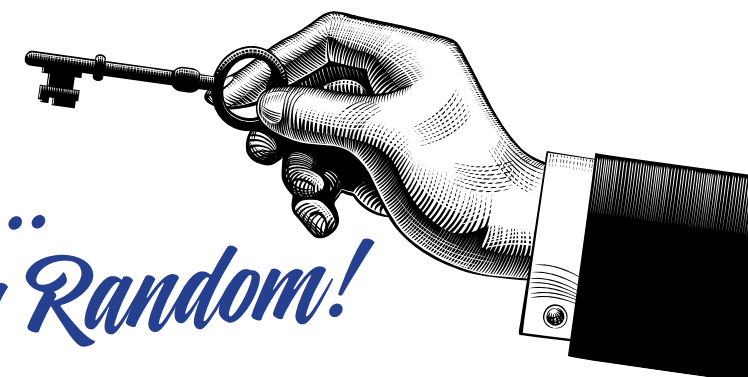
If you were wondering... You'll be pleased to learn that this heavy dog is a cast iron nut cracker! To use, place the nut shell in the jaws of the hound and press down on its tail to break the shell.

"In a Nutshell"...

Idioms and Phrases: Concisely, in a few words, as in *Here's our proposal - in a nutshell, we want to sell the business to you.* This hyperbolic expression alludes to the Roman writer Pliny's description of Homer's *Iliad* being copied in so tiny a hand that it could fit in a nutshell. For a time it referred to anything compressed, but from the 1500s on it referred mainly to written or spoken words. (Source: dictionary.com).

● Item on loan by
Mrs C. Brown: Feb 25

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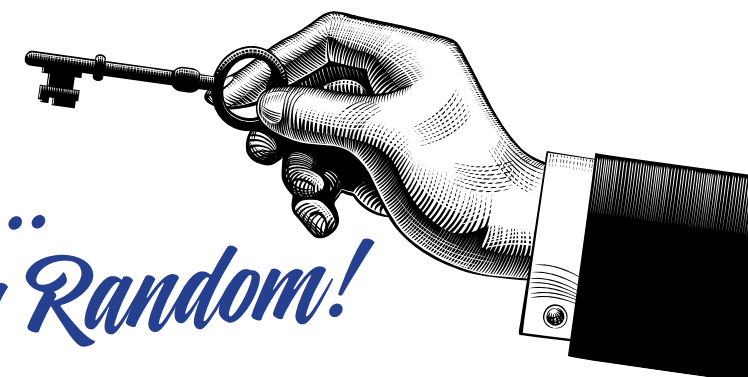
Equine Tail Docker

A truly gruesome piece of antiquarian equine veterinary equipment!

Historically, docking was performed on some horses, often as foals. Prior to mechanisation, tail docking of both light and heavy harness horses was common, viewed as a safety measure to prevent the tail from catching in the harness or on the vehicle. The procedure involved cutting through the skin, muscles, nerves, blood vessels, and bones of the tail. In the modern era, where most horse driving is for show rather than daily use, and even for working animals, the time needed to braid or wrap the tail is feasible, so partial amputation of the tail is NOT generally viewed as necessary.

● Item on loan by
Mr J. Walker: Feb 2025

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A complete mystery

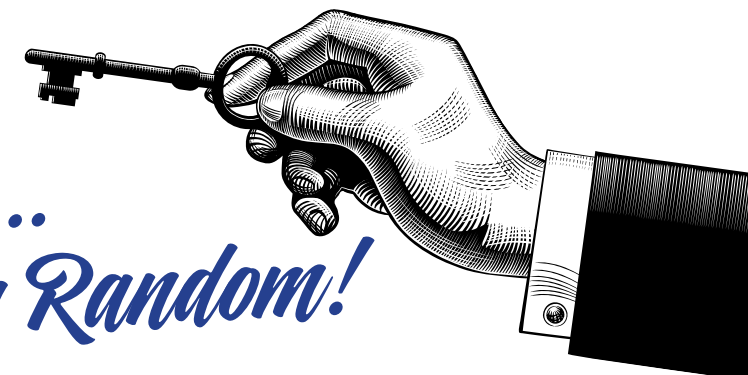
Do you know?
...what this might be?

The owner of this object has no clue! It is made from lead, is very heavy and intriguingly – the pipes have been cut at either end, to remove it from something bigger. It seems to be a component of what?

Maybe you know something relating to this or to similar items – why don't you make notes at the **VISITOR INVESTIGATION STATION.**

● Item on loan by
Mr N. Webb: Feb 2025

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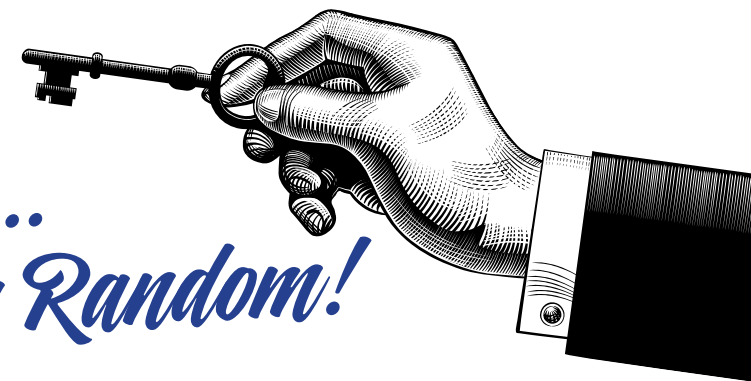
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In the frame

An intriguing ensemble depicting...

- Pelham's Pillar, Caistor.
- The Mausoleum, Limber.
- Confirmation Window, Parish Church, Grimsby.
- Gipsy / Gypsy Smith – Read on for more >>>

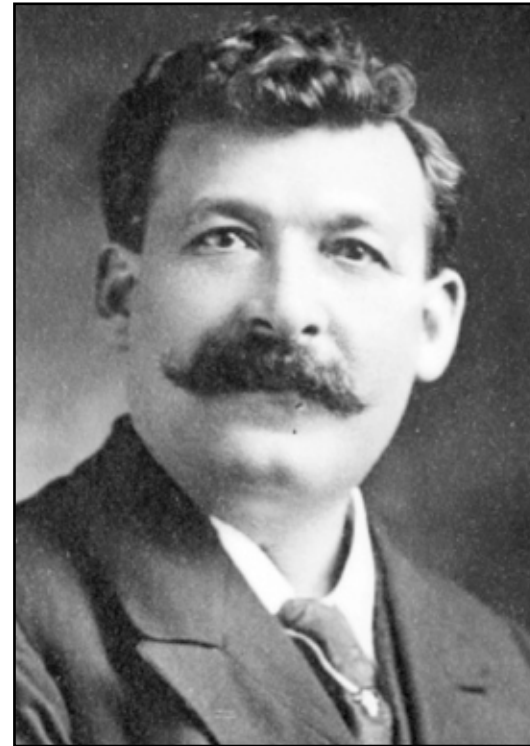
● Item on loan by
Mr N. Webb: Feb 2025



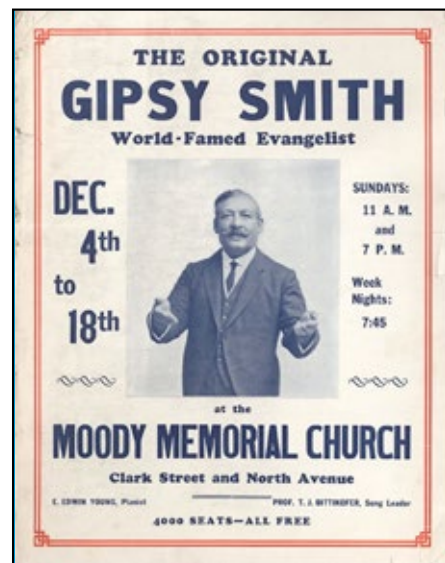
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Rodney 'Gypsy' Smith (31st March 1860 – 4th August 1947)

Very little is known about the Gypsy culture, as most of what has been written about them has come from 'Gorgers'. A Gorger is the term Gypsies use for non-travellers, people who live in houses and thus, from a Gypsy perspective, over consume. Because of this divide, much of what is said about the Gypsy community is stigmatised. Those who do not understand their intricacies produce negative and headline grabbing content focussing on the anti-social behaviour of the minority. We have a large Roma/Gypsy/Traveller community in our valley and many attend our church. We love them all dearly, they are a hard-working, trustworthy, family-centred people who are devout followers of Jesus and I am forever grateful to them for introducing me to Rodney 'Gypsy' Smith to whom the Christian church is indebted.



Humble beginnings



Gypsy Smith is relatively unknown today, but he preached to more people than anyone in history, prior to Billy Graham. He was born in a tent near Epping Forest in North East London and never went to school. He worked hard, helping his father Cornelius make baskets and clothes pegs. His mother, Mary, sadly died of smallpox when he was young.

In 1876, Gypsy Smith came to faith at his local Methodist church and taught himself to read and write. He felt called to preach and learnt his trade by walking the fields 'preaching to the turnips'. He was a man of the people and believed that his Roma community was a lost tribe of Israel. Just as the Jews had their traditions of cleaning and sanitation, their unique burial customs, language, and appearance, so did the Roma community. They also both shared a history of persecution.

In 1877, Gypsy Smith met William Booth, who was drawn to his singing talent. Gypsy Smith gave his testimony and was invited to join the Salvation Army. His first assignment was in Chatham where the congregation grew from 10 to 250 in nine months under his preaching. He was then sent to Hull. Here, over a thousand people came each week to hear him preach. To show their appreciation the church presented Gypsy Smith and his wife with the gift of a gold watch. However, after accepting the watch, he was dismissed by the Salvation Army for breaching their policy.

Called to preach throughout the world

Gypsy Smith continued to receive invitations to speak all across the United Kingdom and Europe. He ran several missions in South Africa where an estimated 300,000 people heard him speak and over 23,000 people professed faith in Jesus.

In 1891, Gypsy Smith accepted his first of many invites to preach in America, where he would speak to more than 10,000 at a time. It was in Boston, in 1896 when 116,000 people attended his crusade that Gypsy Smith was given the title of 'the Greatest Evangelist in the World.' In 1922, Gypsy Smith was speaking in Nashville, Tennessee to a 6,000 strong and exclusively black audience when he was asked, 'What colour are we going to be in heaven? Shall we be black or white?' Gypsy Smith replied, 'We are going to be just like Christ.'

A gospel storyteller

Because Gypsy Smith came from an oral tradition, he didn't rely on manuscripts and notes, but used storytelling to preach the gospel. He could paint pictures with his words and present the gospel in a wonderfully clear way. His style of preaching reached the masses and was understood by all who heard him. He famously said, 'The way to Jesus is not by Cambridge and Oxford, Glasgow, Edinburgh, London, Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Socrates, Plato, Shakespeare or the poets. It is over an old-fashioned hill called Calvary.' On another occasion he said, 'You may climb to the stars and have the sun to play with, and the moon for a hoop and the stars for marbles, but if you want to heal men of broken hearts and guilt you have got to come back to the gospel.'

Gypsy Smith had a unique style that appealed to all people, but the gospel was always clear and he left his audience in no doubt of their personal responsibility to live a life that attested to the faith they proclaim. He said, 'Find a piece of chalk, and find an empty room. Go into that room and shut the door. Draw a circle on the floor with that chalk, kneel down in that circle, and ask God to start revival right there.' He knew that God could change lives and work through whoever came to him regardless of their wealth, or status in life. He said, 'St. Paul's cathedral is nothing but a glorified quarry if Christ be out of it, and my old gypsy tent is a cathedral when Christ is in it'.

Gypsy Smith was an unsung hero of the faith. He was involved in hundreds of evangelistic campaigns across the whole world and was a part of many revivals. He preached to millions of people and pointed them to Christ. During his lifetime he also wrote several books including his **Autobiography – His Life & Work**, as well as: **As Jesus Passed By**, **The Beauty of Jesus** and **The Lost Christ**.

After an estimated 45 crossings of the Atlantic Ocean, Gypsy Smith suffered a heart attack on the Queen Mary in 1947 on his way to America. His funeral was held in New York with a plaque unveiled in Epping Forest. It was a fitting tribute to a man who came from such humble beginnings but who had a ministry that stretched across continents.





Bee Smoker

Thought to be Edwardian?

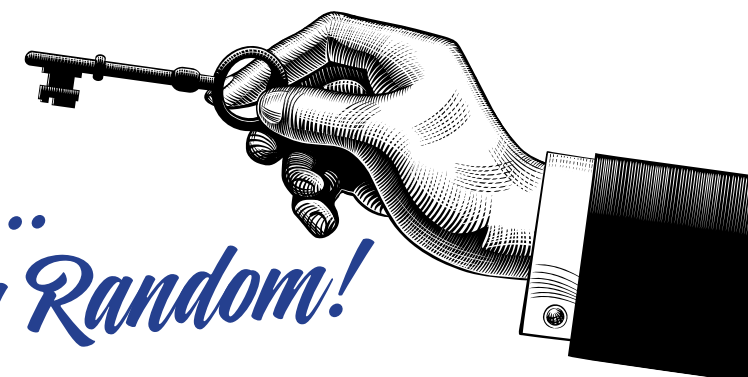
Scan the QR code to learn more about Bee Smoking.

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Dice Shaker

Age unknown! Object in a delicate state of preservation. A Dice has been placed inside

- Items on loan by
Mr N. Webb: Feb 2025



*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*





CURIOUS CASES

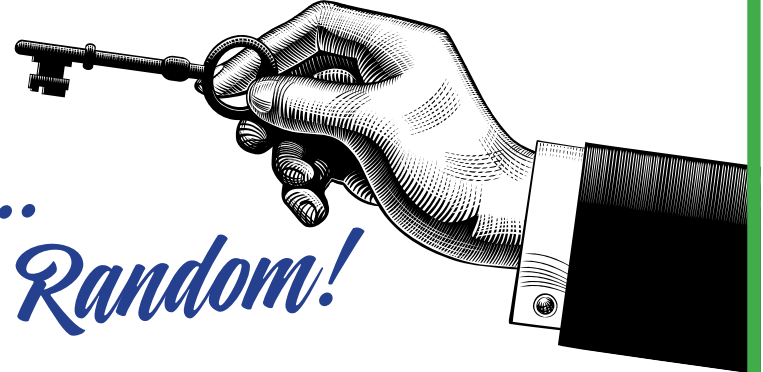
30

Motor Fuel Ration Books & Stamps

Most people today think of the rationing of goods to be solely confined to the period covering World War II and the period shortly after.

However, rationing had been a part of life from World War I onwards and it is surprising to most to find evidence of rationing as late as the 1960s and & 1970s. Books such as this were issued by the British government to combat petrol shortages during the 1973 Oil Crisis.

● Items on loan by
Ms H. Cresswell: Feb 25



Unlocking... The Curiously Random!





CURIOUS CASES

31

School Groups Photographs

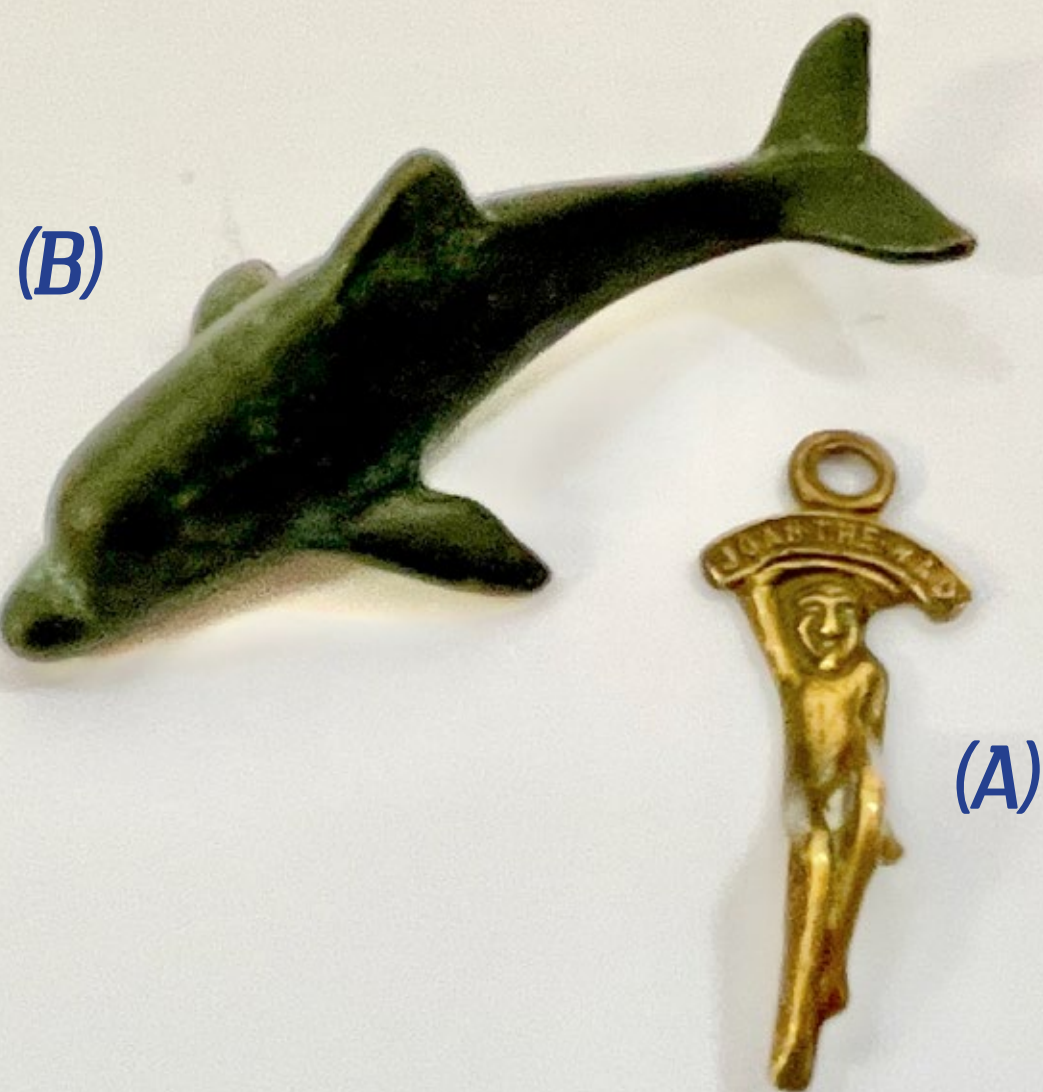
Old House School (now The Exchange)

The Exchange was built in 1760 as 'The dwelling of a man of substance' and was known locally as 'The Old House'. Once owned by lawyer Robert Owston, it was sold in 1862 and became a private girls' school run by Miss Kate Munday. After the turn of the century, the school expanded under the leadership of Mrs Percy Hawkrigde to admit both boys and girls, with a playground on the building's flat roof which seems unimaginable today! According to legend one girl fell to her death! The school closed in 1910. The school group images on display are from 1906 and 1907. Note the distinctive columns either side of the entrance – which are still a prominent feature of the building today (although now painted white). The accompanying image shows the tree-lined Cadney Road with the River Ancholme to the right.

● Items donated by post
Mr P. Norman: Feb 25



Unlocking... The Curiously Random!



CURIOUS CASES

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'Good fortune will nod, if you carry upon you Joan the Wad'

Joan The Wad (A)

Queen of the Cornish Piskies: Deep in Cornwall's rich tapestry of folklore shines the story of Joan the Wad, the Queen of the Piskies. Her name, derived from the old Cornish word for 'torch', ties her to the mysterious pixie-light - flickering, ghostly glows said to haunt the moors and lead wanderers astray. But Joan wasn't just a trickster; she was also a guide. Call upon her kindly, and it is said she'd light your way home through the wild and misty Cornish landscape. Joan is often paired with her mischievous consort, Jack O' The Lantern [QR], the King of the Piskies.

Mysterious Dolphin (B)

This cute little brass Dolphin was found in a bag of crafting materials recently donated by a crafting circle who regularly rent the Ancholme Room. The underside of the Dolphin's chin is burnished – what was object was used for remains a mystery? Maybe its a lucky charm!

Item **A** on loan by
Mrs C. Robinson: Feb 2025
Item **B** donated by Sew 'n' Sew

*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*



CURIOUS CASES

33

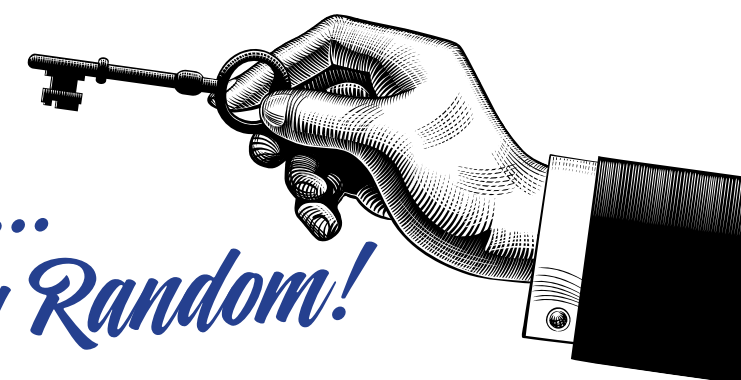
Made to Measure

Most probably to be an English timber girthing tape measure in leather case with brass fittings, fold-out handle, and original 66-foot cloth (woven linen) tape, made by John Rabone & Sons of Birmingham, the tape likely dates from 1940-1960. A unique gift for the craftsman, woodworker, or any lover of old tools.

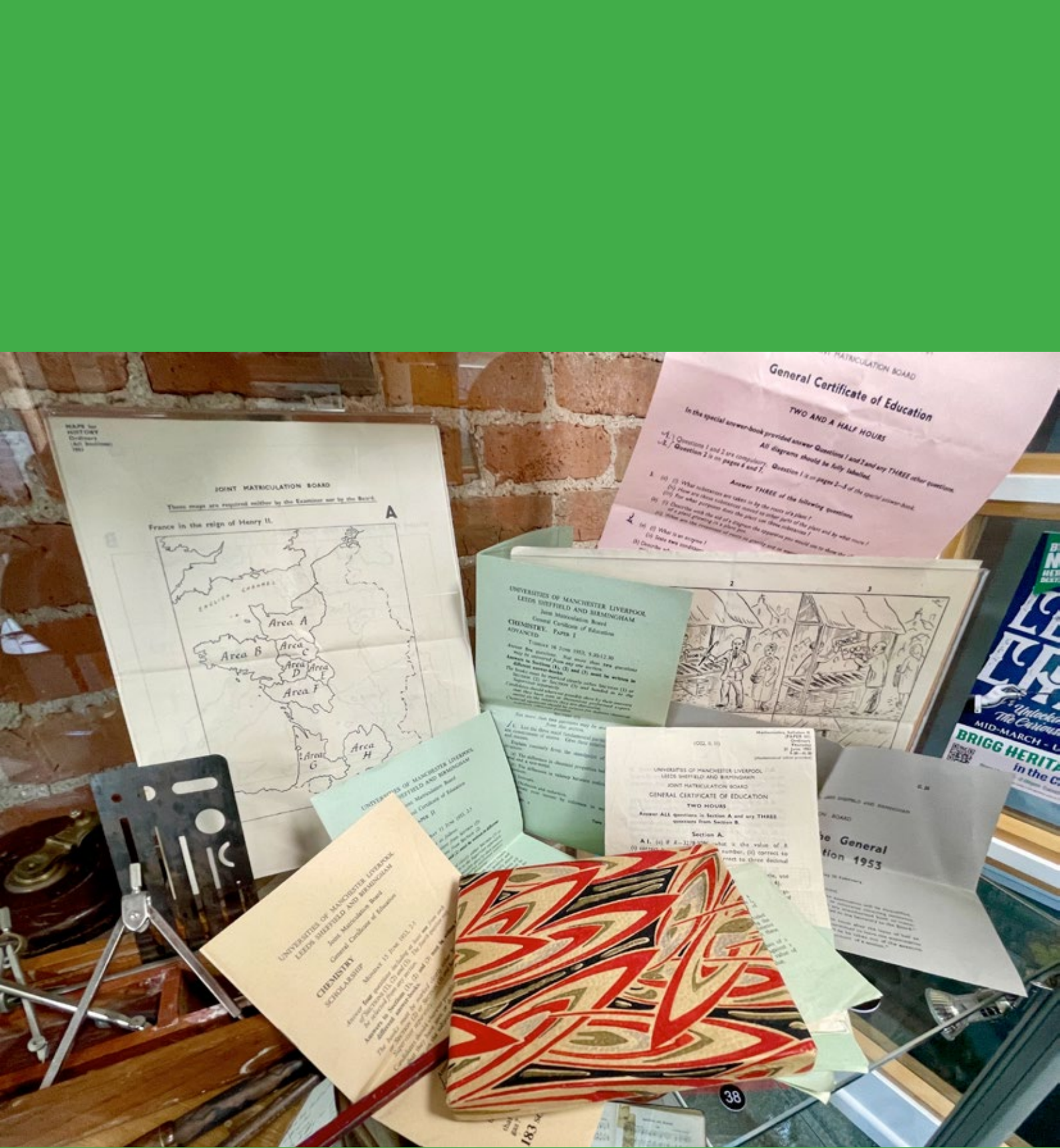
Girthing tapes are used in forestry to measure the diameter (girth) of trees and how much lumber they expect to yield. A tree's girth is measured at a height of 4-1/2 feet, and when multiplied by length (of a felled log, for example) provides an estimate of the cubic feet of wood. The gradations on the tape convert a circumference measurement into the corresponding diameter.

John Rabone & Sons were a pre-eminent British manufacturer of rules and measuring devices, with origins dating back to the late 1700s. The company operated as a family business until it merged with Chesterman & Co of Sheffield in 1963.

- Item donated by
Ms J. Wilkinson: Dec 16



*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*



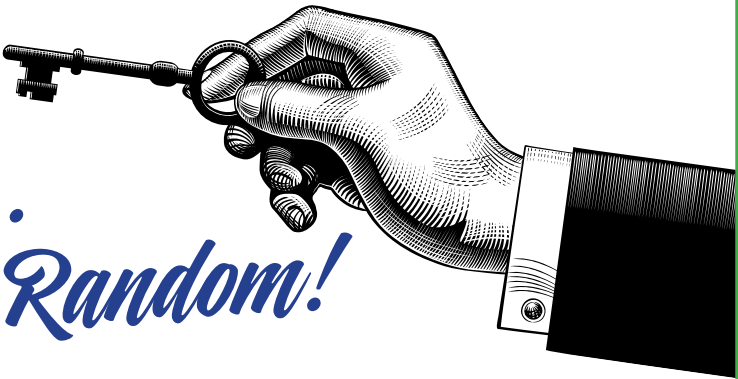
34

Testing Times

Multiple exam papers from mid-20th century

This decorative small box was handed in to Brigg Library in 2024 as a donation for Brigg Heritage Centre. Unfortunately no details were left of the donor. Some of the exam papers have the name M. Baker on them. There are numerous subjects providing snapshot of educational testing practices in the 1950s. We have paired the exam papers with vintage stationery and mathematical instruments which reside in our props archive.

- Origin of item unknown: anonymous donation - left with Brigg Library Staff: Summer 2024.



Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!



Roman Fibula Brooch

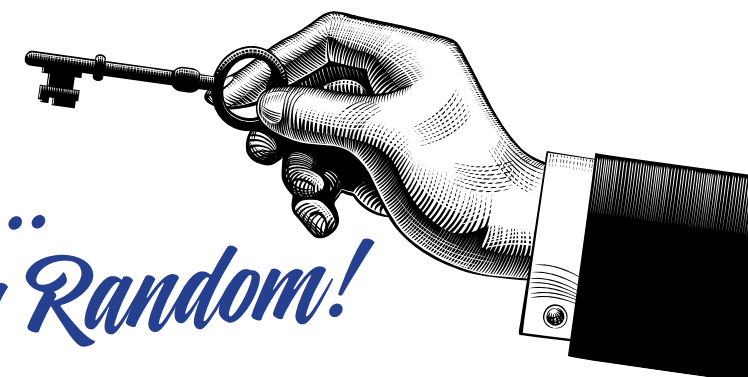
Circa. 1st - 2nd A.D.

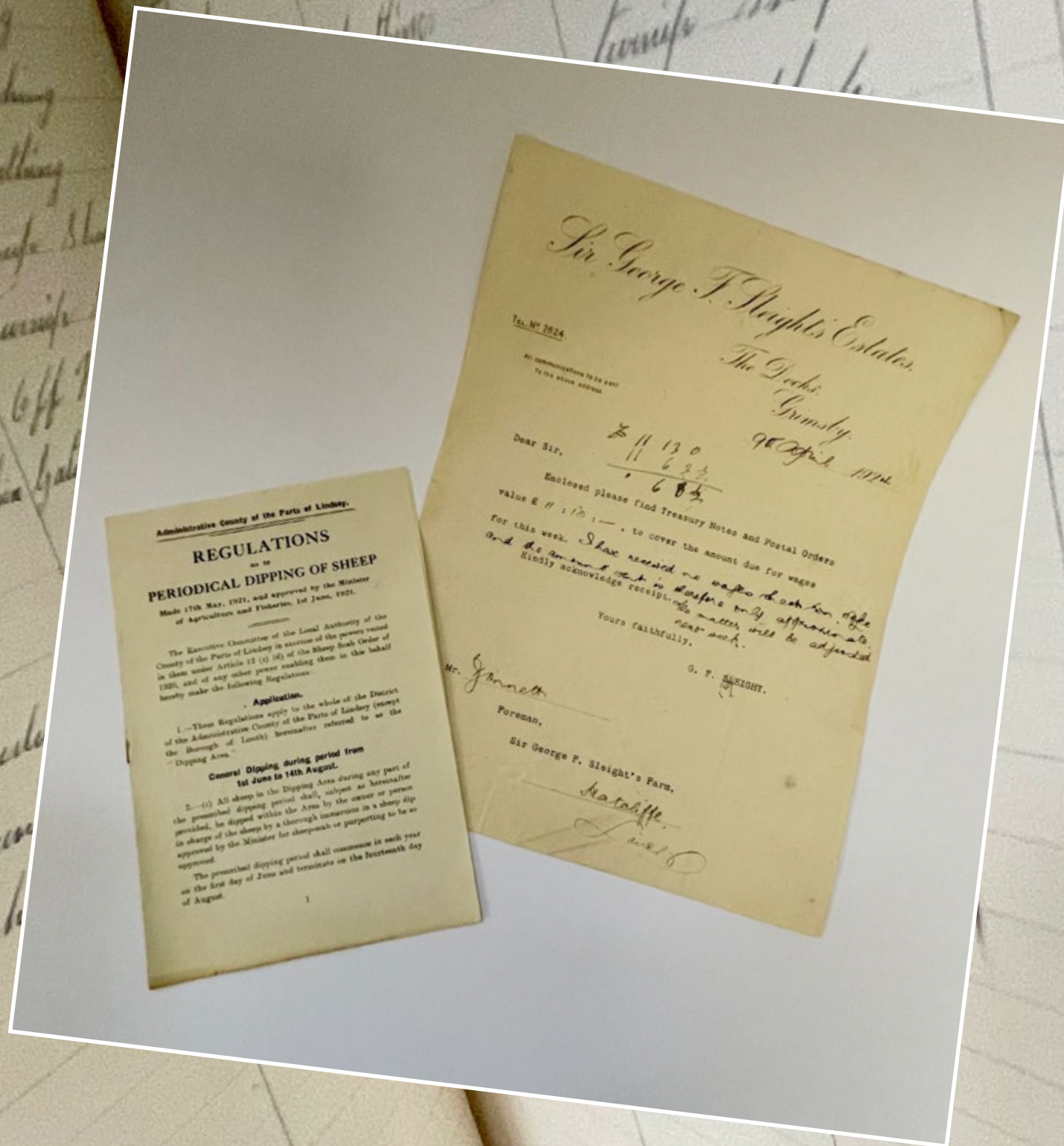
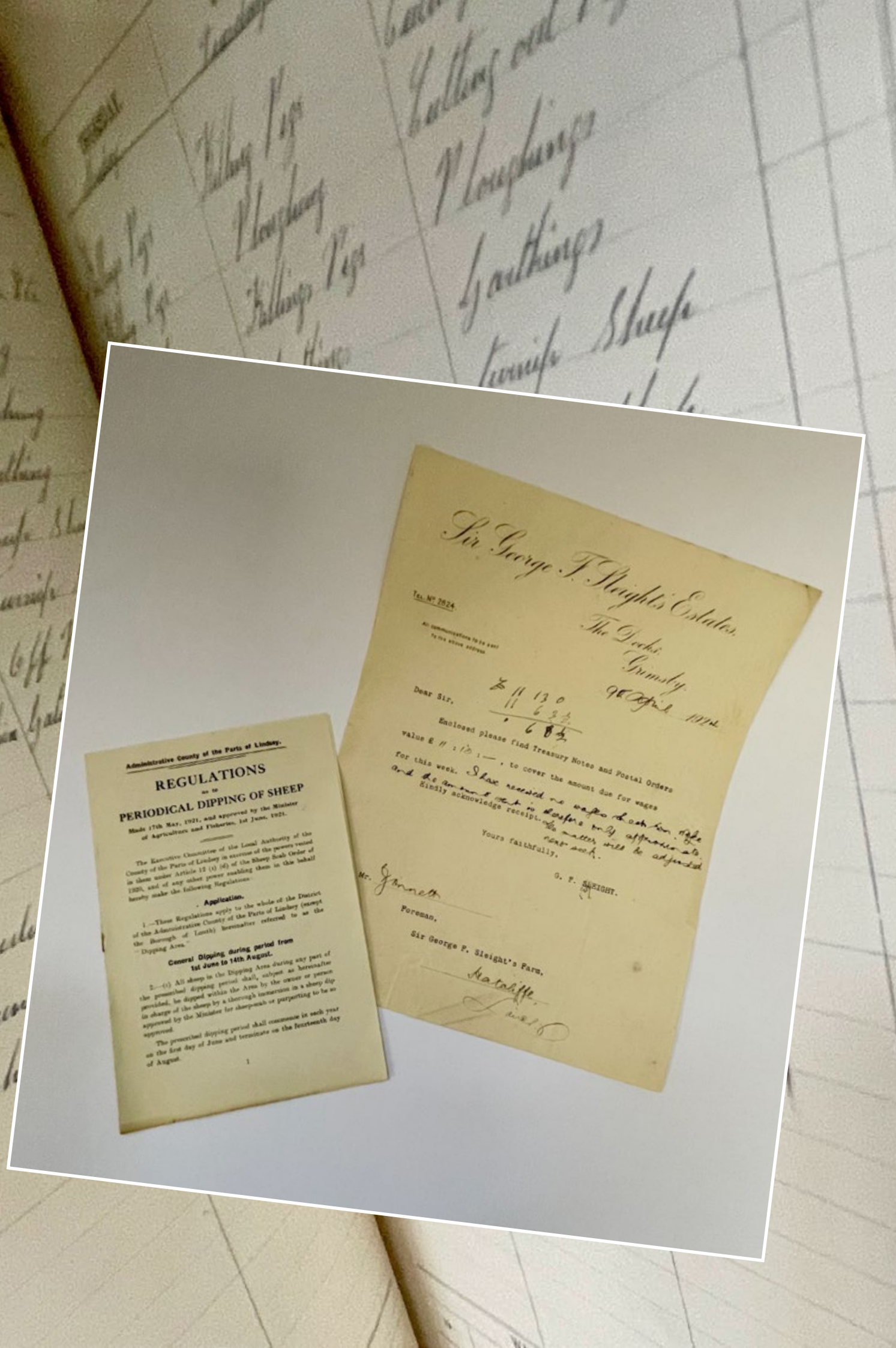
This artefact once belonged to Robert Littlewood (who was a member of the Scunthorpe Museum Society). After Robert passed away, a box of his books was left to Mr P. Hildreth. Amongst the books was this spectacular Roman brooch (with white and pink glass) and a stone age napped flint tool ([see Item 39](#)).

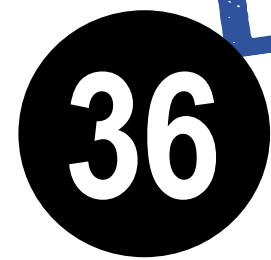
“We are honoured to have been donated this Roman piece of jewellery – BHC have examples in our permanent collection – however, this piece will be vital as part of our education delivery for school visits on the subject of Romans” – BHC Manager

- Item donated by
Mr P. Hildreth: Feb 25

*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*







CURIOUS CASES

Farmers Accounting

And associated agricultural ephemera

Its always astonishing to see how neat the hand written entries are within the pages of vintage accounts ledgers. The two additional papers were tucked within the pages of this ledger. These items were donated along with other items which provide a snapshot of a bygone era.

● Item donated by
Mr Bonnett: Jan 2017



*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*



A: Glanford ('Lincs' with Canada)

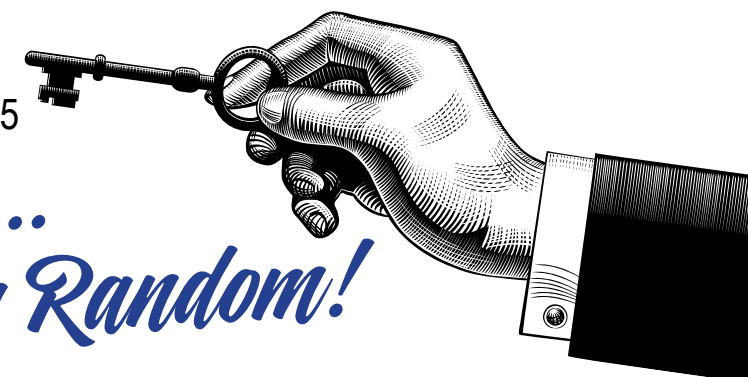
We have two examples of the same enamel pin which commemorates centenary the Canadian town of Swan River 1908-2008. The curious case is that one pin was gifted in 2013 (by a visitor to Brigg Heritage Centre) and the second was donated by Mrs J. Brock in 2025. Its nice to bring these twin badges together for the first time as a pair!

B: Governor (Official Visitor)

This distinctive enamel lapel button hole badge was produced for **Scunthorpe & District War Memorial Hospital**. The Scunthorpe and District War Memorial Hospital opened in 1929, located at Cliff Gardens, Scunthorpe. The hospital's design was by local architect W. H. Butterwick (it is now known as Scunthorpe General Hospital). The hospital was built to meet the increased demand for medical care from the town's steel industry.

- Donated items (one Swan River) by Mrs J. Brock: Feb 25

*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*





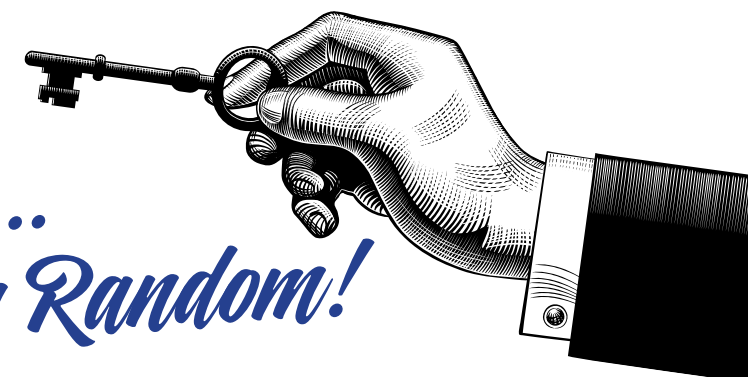
Set of Brass Letter Scales

From Yarborough Oil Mill

The Yarborough Steam Mills certainly existed in the 1840s, not only for corn milling but also for crushing bone and the making of oil cake. In 1854 Feltham and Walesby took over and introduced various new products. Then in 1892 William Piggott Holmes was in charge until the Farmer's Company was formed and acquired the site in 1874, before finally selling it off to the last owners Allbright and Wilson.

"These brass postal scales were used in the post room of the Farmers Company Ltd. Yarborough Oil Mills offices which stood at the riverside on the west side of the New River Ancholme which is now part of the Waters Edge estate. The scales were used to weigh letters to enable the correct postage stamps to be used. Believed to be from the late Victorian period." - P Johnson

● Item on loan by
Mr P. Johnson: Feb 25



*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*



CURIOUS CASES

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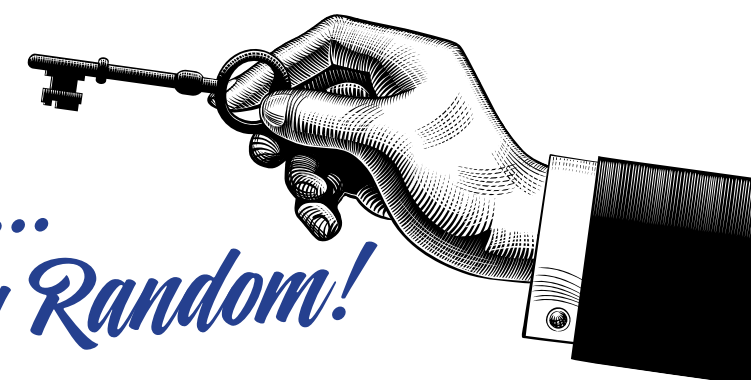
Flint Implement

Stone Age

This artefact once belonged to Robert Littlewood (who was a member of the Scunthorpe Museum Society). After Robert passed away, a box of his books was left to Mr P. Hildreth. Amongst the books was this very sharp stone age flint stone tool and spectacular Roman brooch (with white and pink glass) (see Item 35).

"We are honoured to have been donated this Stone Age flint stone tool – BHC have examples in our permanent collection – however, this piece will be vital as part of our education delivery for school visits on the subject of the Stone Age" – BHC Manager

● Item donated by
Mr P. Hildreth: Feb 25



*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*



CURIOUS CASES



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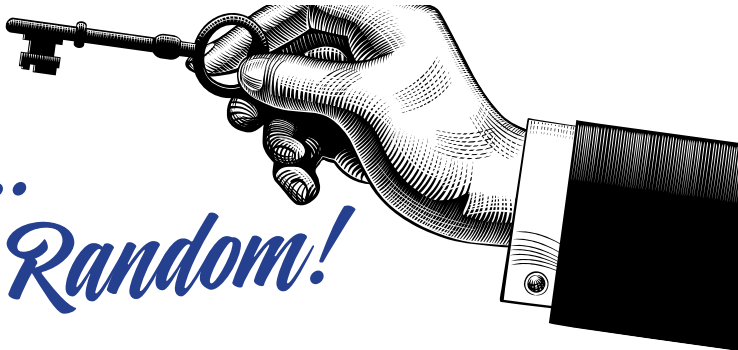
‘Glamford’ Chamber of Commerce

The condition is a mystery! Do you recognise any names?

J.T. Kettle	1926 - 1928	G.W. Brocklesby Jnr.	1970 - 1971
S.E. Walker	1929 - 1930	Walter H. Parker	1971 - 1972
W.B. Robinson	1931 - 1934	Maurice G. Henry	1972 - 1973
Edgar Taylor	1936 - 1937	J.R. Gregory	1973 - 1974
Harry Sellars	1938 - 1939	J.R. Gregory	1974 - 1975
Aymere A.F. Stubbs	1940 - 1942	Maurice G. Henry	1975 - 1976
-		Walter H. Parker	1976 - 1978
Earnest Taylor	1947 - 1948	Kenneth M. Pearce	1978 - 1980
Ralph L. Patchett	1948 - 1950	Anne E. Jeffrey	1980 - 1982
Herbert B. Johnson	1950 - 1951	J. Costello	1982 - 1984
-		C. Tuxworth	1984 - 1986
Earnest Taylor	1953 - 1954	C.J. Artist	1986 - 1988
-		C.S. Shroobree	1988 - 1989
Thomas S. Morton	1957 - 1959	Mrs E. Brocklesby	1990 - 1991
Dof Earnside	1959 - 1961	Mr M. Bond	1991 - 1992
Harry Robinson	1961 - 1962	Mr R. Lawton	1992
Mrs K.V. Scarborough	1962 - 1963	Michael N. Birkitt	1993 - 1994
Joseph J. Magrath	1963 - 1965	Mavis L. Caborn	1994 - 1997
Kenneth M. Pearce	1965 - 1966	Paul McCormick	1997
H.K. Overend	1966 - 1967	Mrs E. Brocklesby	1997 - 1998
Kenneth M. Pearce	1968 - 1969	Keith W. Norris	1998 - 2002
Leslie G. Watkinson	1969 - 1970		

● On loan by Brigg Town Council: April 24

Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!







CURIOUS CASES

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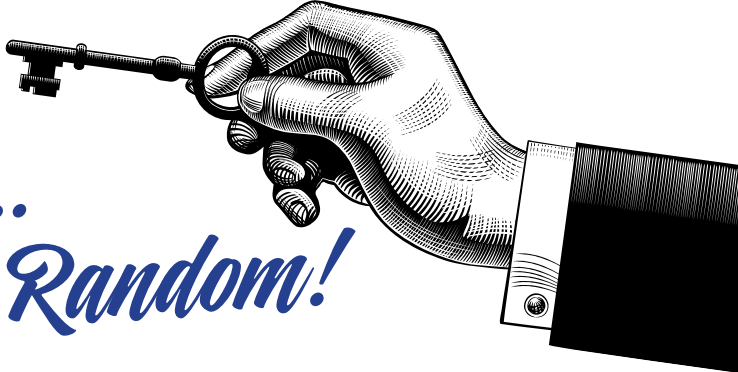
Action Man

1978 - 1984 Dynamic Physique, Eagle Eyes

“So what’s so curious about him? Well, you will notice something different at the ankles – legend has it ... in summer of 1985 this daring soldier took part in an ‘end of school term’ tournament of how high can you throw your ‘A-Man’ up into the air! Sadly he lost both feet in the process. With feet found (but not attached), he went off to the ‘Toy Hospital’ (AKA) Dad’s factory (feet in a match box) and a few days later, arrived home sporting steel pins fixing his feet. Today he is wearing an authentic Action Man Outfit – Native American Chief – its amazing it still fits after all these years! – Must be the 70s/80s dynamic physique. He still has his tomahawk but the extra decoration from the head dress have long been lost! – GA



Item on loan by
G Alexander: Feb 25



Unlocking... The Curiously Random!



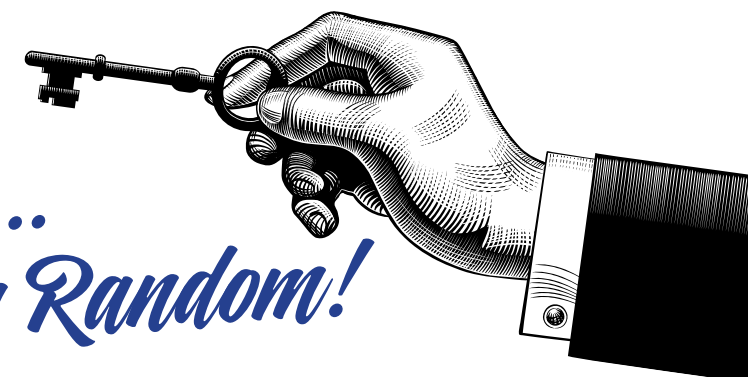
A Sail makers Sewing Palm

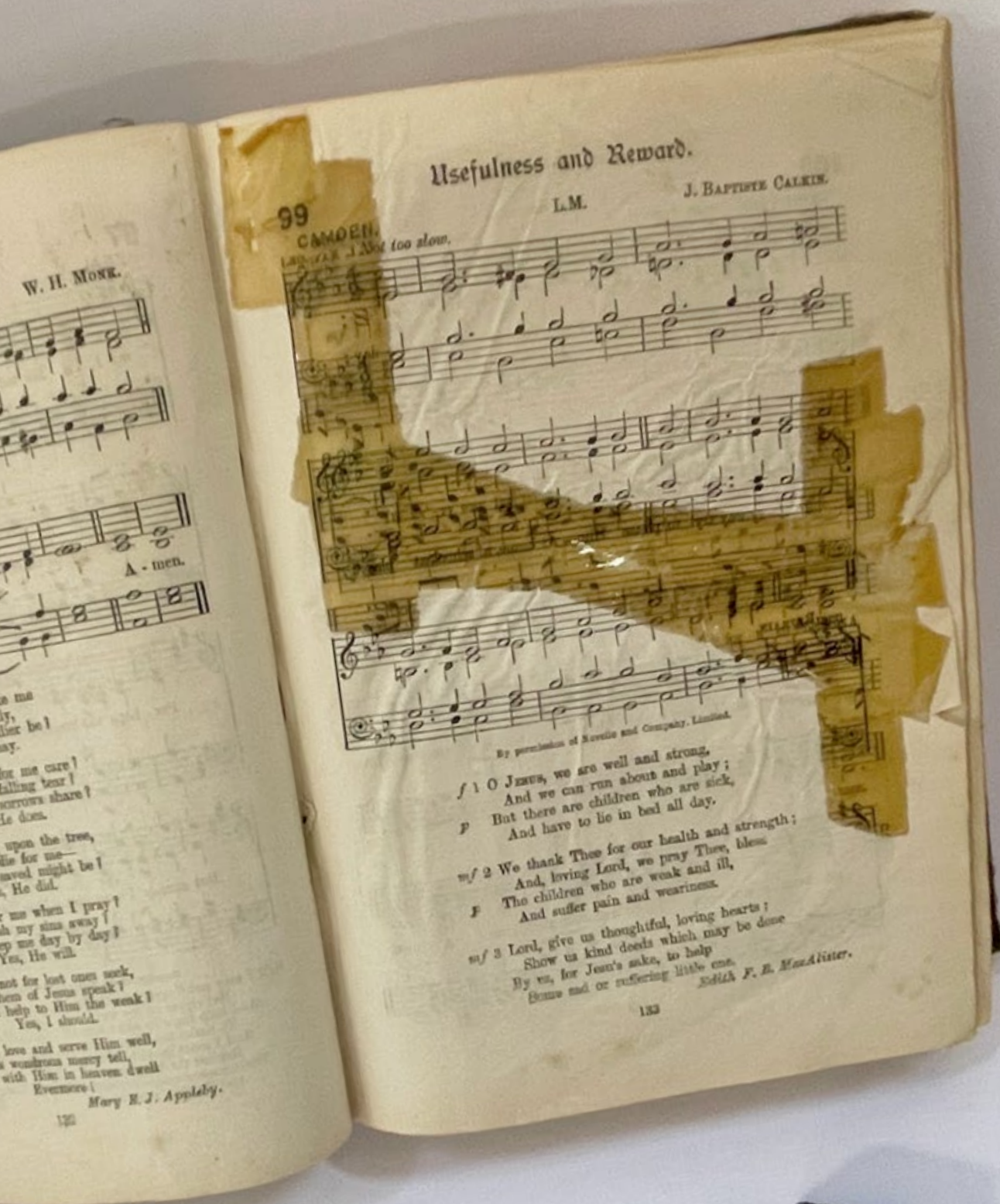
A very different variation on a thimble...

This weird and wonderful looking object is used to push a heavy triangular shaped needle through canvas when making or repairing sailing vessel sails or canvas covers. The thumb of the right hand fits through the circular hole of the palm and the rest of the fingers of the hand passes through the pain straps. The pitted, circular section of the palm would help to push the needle through the canvas without causing injury to the sail maker's hand.

● Item on loan by
Mr J. Robinson: Jan 25

*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*







CURIOUS CASES

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A: Methodist School Hymn Book

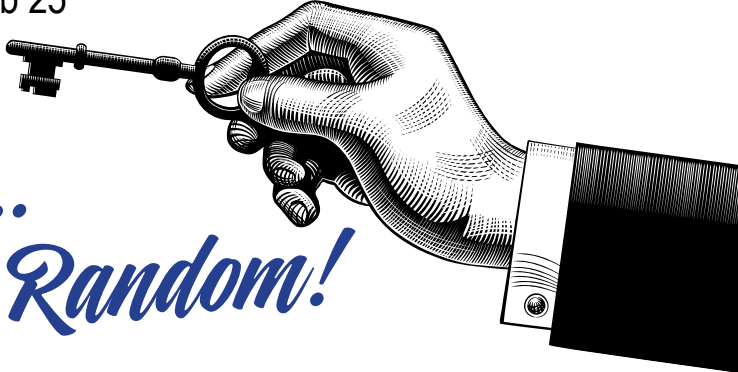
“Typical Methodist Hymn book – what’s curious about this one is the repaired page on the hymn Usefulness and Reward. Over the years the ‘Sellotape’ used has made the paper transparent and you can see the music printed on each side, together”. – GA

- Donated by Mr Bonnett: Jan 17

B: Woodblock Holy Bible Book

“This curious object was once owned by Elizabeth Bush, her initials are carved on the reverse each side, Thought to be Victorian / Edwardian. Maybe its a religious pocket talisman! – GA

- Item on loan by S. Robson: Feb 25



*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*



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GROUP

Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee - Brigg Visit 1977

This aerial commemorative photograph shows people lining the streets of Bigby Street and Market Place as the Queen arrives alongside the Buttercross and the roads were a thoroughfare. [Also a commemorative pamphlet with the Brigg Fair Musical Score \(BHC Archive\).](#)

- Framed photograph item on loan from One's Junk, Another's Treasure: Feb 25

Large-format Brigg photograph from early 1900s

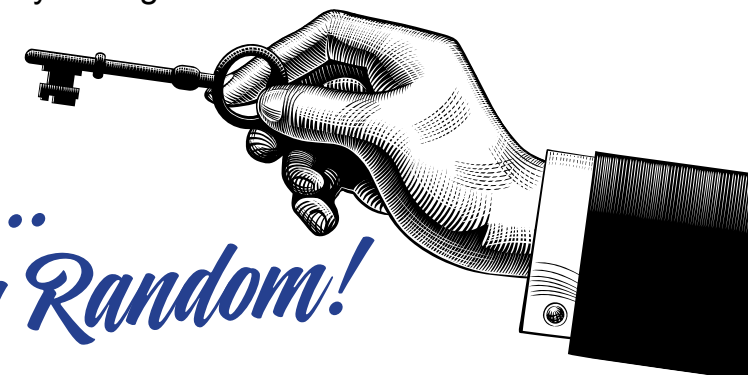
Do you recognise where this image was taken in Brigg? If you gave any ideas, why don't you add some notes to the [VISITOR INVESTIGATION STATION](#)

- BHC Archive

Advertising Card for the Thornholme Hotel (Wrawby Road)

Proprietors John & Sheila Bradley: Small dinner parties, Wedding Receptions and Special Functions by arrangement.

- BHC Archive



*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*



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LAWS SOFT DRINKS CRATE

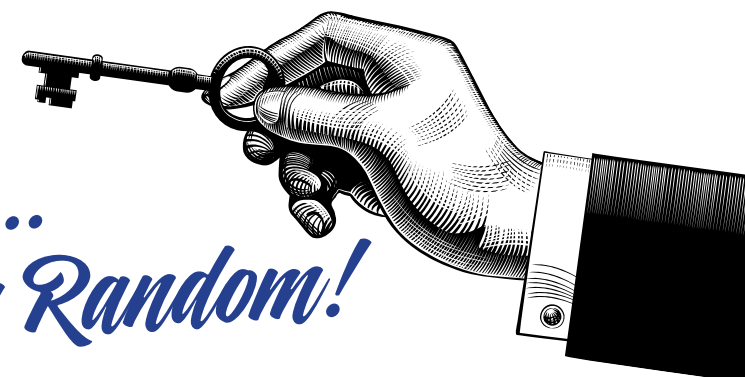
With 12 bottles with their tops!

Mr Petchell donated this Laws Crate containing a full set of bottles on the proviso that it was to be kept in Brigg. Unfortunately the crate has seen better days and is now supported and held together with mesh.

“Older Brigg residents will remember LAWS Soft Drinks, based near the Spring’s jam factory. The company sent a van round housing estates in Brigg – and beyond. We really looked forward to early evening visits by ‘Cyril the pop man’ when we lived in the Woodbine Avenue prefabs during the 1960s and later after moving to Central Square. Cyril, with satchel to hold the money slung over one shoulder, took away the previous week’s empty bottles and left the new supply – a couple of bottles, in our case. “Make it last!” was the instruction we received once he had returned to his lorry.”

– Extract from Nigel Fisher’s Brigg Blog

- Item donated by
Mr R. Petchell: Nov 24



*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*



46



Glebe Road School (1954-5)

**Do you recognise anyone - head to the
*VISITOR INVESTIGATION STATION***

- Drop off Donation
by 'Pauline'



*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*





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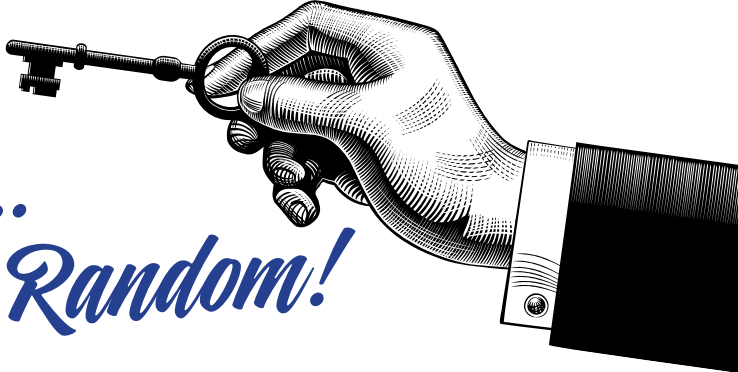
GROUP

A collection of Scunthorpe Steelworks related images (attributed to Bill Batchelor)

& The Story of Iron by J.B. Fortune,
Illustrated by Paul B. Mann. Published in 1948

Do you recognise anyone - head to the
VISITOR INVESTIGATION STATION

● BHC Archive



*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*



Glyn Alexander – BHC Manager
 Brigg Heritage Centre
 1st Floor (Reception)
 Angel Building
 Market Place
 Brigg
 N. Lincolnshire
 DN20 8LD

4 Sarisbury Close
 Tadley
 Hampshire
 RG26 3TP

Dear Glyn

Thank you for your email of 21/08/2023 about a small number of paper clippings that my mum had from the 1940s/1950s (I think more 1950s).

Mum – Joan Hinch as she was – was born in Grasby in 1931, but lived in Nottingham when she worked in the National Childrens' Home. Her grandparents, Philip and Harriet Hinch, would send her various clippings that they thought she'd like to read, as a taste of home I think.

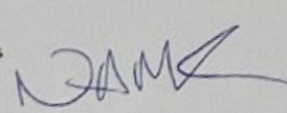
I'm sorry that the clippings don't have dates on them (!!) but thought they would be of interest to you anyway. Likewise the postcards of Brigg and the Humber bridge – we used to visit my grandparents and mum's family once or twice a year and used to drive to the Lincolnshire side of the bridge and watch it being built.

I've also included a food rationing card that belonged to my grandfather, Herbert Baden Hinch, who was born, raised and died in North Lincolnshire.

If any of these aren't of interest please feel free to dispose of them, but I hope they are.

If so, please mention Joan as your donor and I'll let her know they've gone to a good home.

Hopefully one day I can visit in person!

Kind regards

 Nicola Murphy
 Nicola.murphy294@yahoo.co.uk

CURIOUS CASES

48

PAPER EPHEMERA

Press clippings of local interest and other paper items saved!

"It is always nice when members of the public get in touch with us to tell us they have items found an and amongst papers (when sorting through a loved ones affects). It's always curious as to why someone decided to save what they saved – especially for all those years! Every item has its own story and holds its own secret history. Brigg Heritage Centre loves to display items from the general public, when we can, in our temporary exhibitions – as part of our community engagement initiative".

– BHC Manager

● Items donated by
 Ms N. Murphy: Aug 23

Unlocking... The Curiously Random!



49

A complete mystery

Do you know?

...from which shop/business
this used be?

Craig from **One's Junk, Another's Treasure** is the proud owner of this unique piece of Brigg's History. Although it is or part of an old frontage, he has no clue as to which business it originally adorned - its a heavy lead keepsake: **Brigg Est 1881**. Maybe you know something relating to this or to similar items – why don't you make notes at the **VISITOR INVESTIGATION STATION**.

- Item on loan from One's Junk, Another's Treasure: Feb 25

*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*





CURIOUS CASES

Scrapbook Corner

Take a seat and immerse
yourself in nostalgia...

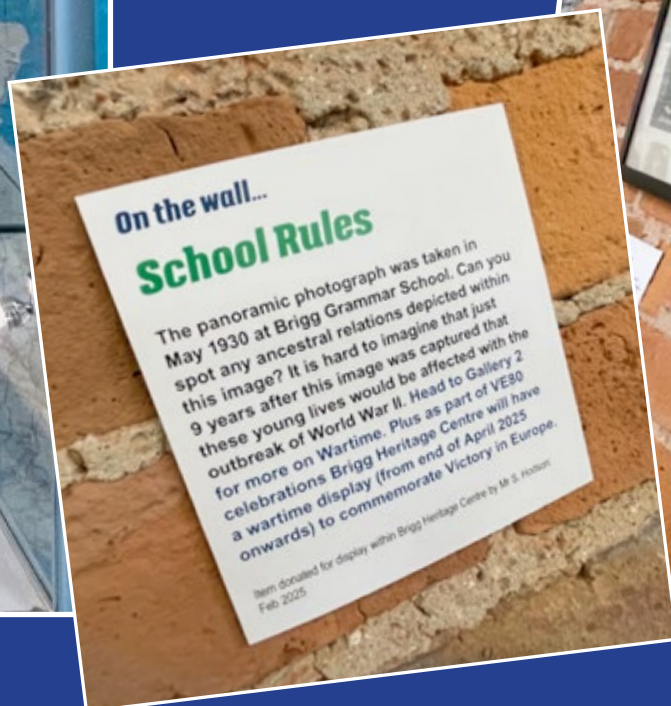
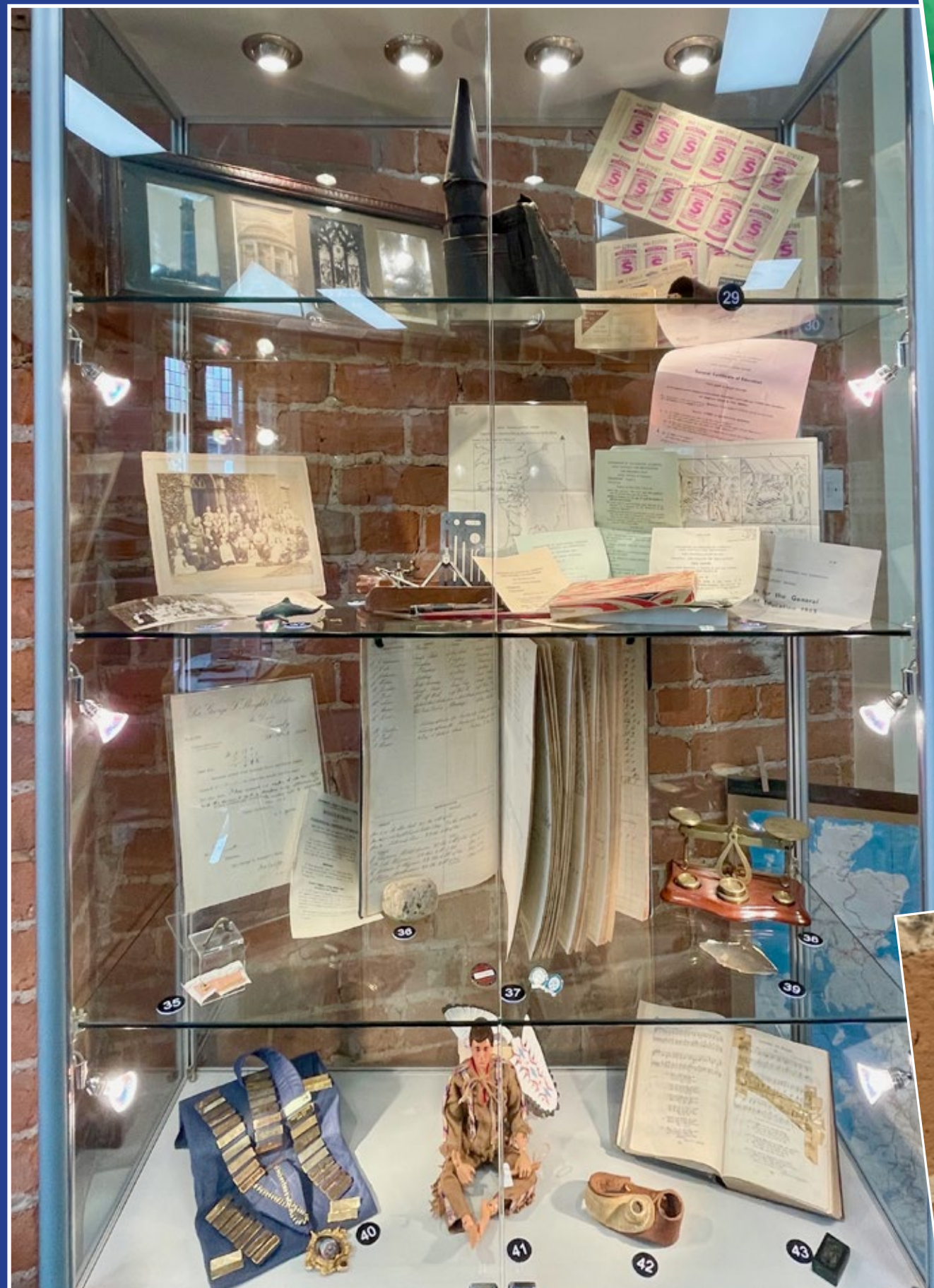
The Scrapbooks were compiled by **Sylvia Holland** from the 1960s onwards. **Jean Moss**, Sylvia's daughter wanted these scrapbooks to be available for people to see and reminisce. So donated them to Brigg Heritage Centre. After this exhibition we will move the scrapbooks to the **Period Room** so that visitors can still enjoy them. Maybe you know something relating the contents of these scrapbooks, or recognise a familiar face, or remember a particular event – if you do - why don't you make notes at the **VISITOR INVESTIGATION STATION**.

● Scrapbooks donated
by Jean Moss: Feb 25



*Unlocking...
The Curiously Random!*







On the wall...

Coney Court Cottages

The image depicts a gentleman sat outside his cottage (now demolished) in Coney Court in 1937, the banner on the building celebrates the Coronation of King George VI. It reads 'Long Live The King'. Coney Court's location is off Market Place (opposite The Angel Building). It was once the heart of Brigg's Fur Trade - hence its name. Find out more information on the fur trade in Gallery 2.

Courts & Yards

The image provides a plan of Brigg's Historic Courts and Yards. You can find our more information on these in the Period Room.

