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Mr Bodger and the Bone Skates: communities and cultural practice through time

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GET IT
EVERY NIGHT

PETERBOROUGH

Evening Telegra



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‘I am proud of my pictures of Peterborough although I never imagined I was creating a record of social history [...] I feel guilty that my family has suffered for my “art” with me roaming the streets for hours trying to satisfy some creative urge.’

Chris Porsz, *New England* (2013), p. 5; p. 133.



Peterborough Museum, in the building donated to the Museum Society in 1931 – now Peterborough Museum at Vivacity [from 2010]



J. W. Bodger [left]; Dame Madge Kendal; Mr J.T.S. Flynn, editor of the
Peterborough Citizen



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BONE SKATES.

Mr J. W. Bodger, Secretary of the Peterborough Scientific and Archæological Society, has kindly sent me a drawing of a bone skate (Fig. 104) found at Ramsey, Hunts, embedded 6 feet in peat.



SIDE VIEW



UNDERSIDE

Fig. 104.—Bone Skate found at Ramsey, Hunts. (After J. W. Bodger) (b).

Robert Munro, *Prehistoric Problems: being a selection of essays on the evolution of man and other controverted problems in anthropology and archæology* (Edinburgh: Blackwoods, 1897), 300.



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Model Cockerel (1797-1814) from the Norman Cross collection, Peterborough Museum, image courtesy of Vivacity Culture and Leisure.



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BRITISH FOLK ART



Poster for *British Folk Art* exhibition, Tate Britain, 10 June-31 August 2014

The artist 'leads the rest of us into fresh pastures and teaches us to love and enjoy what we often begin by rejecting, enlarging our sensibility and purifying instincts'

J. M. Keynes, 'The Arts Council: its policy and hopes', *Listener*, 34, 361 (12 July 1945), reprinted in *Arts Council of Great Britain, 1st Annual Report 1945/6* (London: Arts Council of Great Britain, 1946), p. 23.

‘If a British Enlightenment did exist, then one of its principal engines was the Georgian voluntary society. Fanning out across the English-speaking world, clubs and societies may have served as a vector for new ideas, new values, new kinds of social alignment, and forms of national, regional and local identity.’

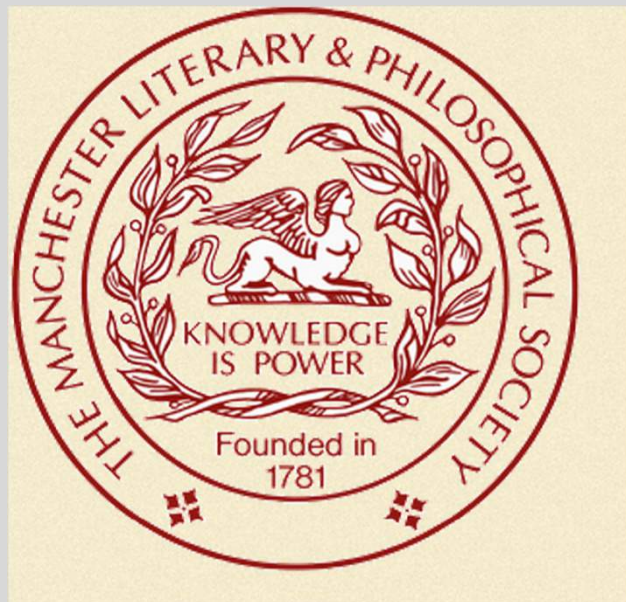
Peter Clark, *British Clubs and Societies, 1580-1800* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), ix.

‘Rules and Orders to be observed and kept up by the Members of the Gentlemen’s Society in Peterborough. Instituted this Twenty sixth day of August, 1730, for the improvement of Literature and promoting of Friendship and good Neighbourhood.

Society to consist of Regular and Honorary Members. No gentleman within 5 miles off Peterborough shall be admitted otherwise than a regular Member. Regular members to pay 3s. per quarter.’



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Left: logo of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society; Right: the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society, founded 1793.



C O N T E N T S

OF THE

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OBSERVA-

Men, however great their learning, often become indolent, and unambitious to improve in knowledge, for want of associating with others of similar talents and acquirements: Having few opportunities of communicating their ideas, they are not very solicitous to collect or arrange those they have acquired, and are still less anxious about the further cultivation of their minds.—**But science, like fire, is put in motion by collision.**

*‘Preface’, *Memoirs of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society* (1785): vi-vii.*





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Gentlemen's
Society... Instituted
this Twenty sixth
day of August,
1730, for the
improvement of
Literature and
promoting of
Friendship and
good
Neighbourhood

'Good Neighbours' (1981) Copyright Chris Porsz



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