



February 2016

Dear Member,

## **Past Events**

### **The Spence's Pension Charity for the Ancient Parish of Market Bosworth**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of January David Reid, Chairman of the Charity and Derek Jerram, Clerk to the Charity, gave a very interesting talk on the little known Spence's Charity and its benefactor Ferrand Spence. David opened the presentation by explaining that during Ferrand's lifetime there was a climate of political intrigue between the French and Jacobites as they plotted to restore Catholicism in England. He went on to explain that in Ferrand's will of 1698 he instructed that an Almshouse or Hospital be established in Carlton - in- Craven Yorkshire for the use of six poor widows of Carlton-in-Craven. He also decreed that six widows from the ancient parish of Market Bosworth should also be selected in recognition of the care and education he received during his time in Market Bosworth. In 1901 the two arms of the Charity separated and the Bosworth Charity now supports 20 needy residents in the local area.

Derek then took over to explain that by chance he came across a footnote in an Arden copy of Antony & Cleopatra referring to Ferrand Spence. This started him on a quest that took him to Lambeth Palace, The British Library, Post Office Archive, The National Archive and the Record Office of Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland. The research carried out by Derek is remarkable and is a credit to his diligence. From knowing little about Ferrand Spence we now know that he was prolific translator of books from the French language into English. His fluency in French led him to the Foreign Office section of the Post Office where letters passing between known Jacobites and the French were intercepted, carefully opened and a transcription taken including the breaking of various codes before being resealed and delivered to the intended recipient. The information gathered by Ferrand was passed to amongst others Archbishop Tenison who, being very concerned about the resurgence of Catholicism in England, was very grateful to Ferrand for his services which amounted to spying on behalf of the Church of England.

David and Derek have written a book on Ferrand Spence which they launched at the Society's meeting. The book contains the results of their research and provides an intriguing insight into the life and times of Ferrand Spence. If sales on the night are anything to go by you will need to purchase your copy quickly before supplies run out!

## **Forthcoming Event**

### **'Ruth's Story' 7:30pm 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Unfortunately Roger Lovell, who was scheduled to give a talk on his travels through the county in the wheel tracks of Bernard Newman, is unable to make it. However we are delighted to welcome Ruth and Jurgen Schweining who have agreed to give a talk on the experiences of Ruth's family in pre-war Germany.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1938 the pre-war persecution of Jews reached its climax with the launch by the Nazis of 'Kristallnacht' or the 'Night of Broken Glass' when German and Austrian Nazis killed nearly one hundred Jews and subjected thousands more to violence. 257 synagogues and

community buildings were destroyed, tens of thousands of Jewish shops and homes were broken into and nearly 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent into concentration camps.

Five days later in England a group of Jewish and Quaker leaders appealed in person to Neville Chamberlain and the Home Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare, to allow Jewish children from four year olds up to 16 year olds to enter Great Britain unaccompanied by adults. The Government agreed to allow an unspecified number to enter the country and also agreed to speed up the immigration procedures by allowing group applications rather than individual ones. Following an appeal many British families offered foster homes to the children.

A group known as the Movement for the Care of Children from Germany was quickly set up and their representatives travelled to Germany and Austria to begin to identify the most vulnerable Jewish children some of whom were already in concentration camps or were very likely to be transported to a camp. Other children were in Jewish orphanages so had no relatives to care for them and others had parents already in the concentration camps.

The German Government stated that the transportation of children could take place but would not be allowed to clog up ports. The children were therefore moved by train to the Netherlands where they were put on ferries to carry them to England. In the period before war was declared some ten thousand Jewish children were rescued and brought to England. Unfortunately a large number of children were also moved to other European countries but when those countries were overrun it undoubtedly meant that the majority of them perished.

Ruth Schwiening was part of the Kindertransport operation and the Market Bosworth Society feels privileged that she has agreed to share the harrowing experiences of her family with us on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30 pm in the Chapel on Barton Road.

#### **AGM March 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 7:00pm Chapel, Barton Road.**

The Society's AGM will take place on the above date which will be followed by a talk by David Woolerton on the History of Bowls in Market Bosworth. It is important that Society Members should endeavour to attend the meeting when proposals, which could prove pivotal to the future of the Society, will be debated. Please note the earlier start time.

#### **Nomination for Chairman**

The Committee is delighted to report that Mr. Nigel Palmer has agreed to allow his name to be put forward for nomination for the position of Chairman of the Society. This does not preclude anyone else from being nominated for the role. The vacancy for Secretary remains open so if you or you know of anyone who is interested in becoming our Secretary please let a member of the committee have their contact details.

#### **Contact Us**

If you should have any queries please contact one of the following: Mrs. Sheila Loseby on 01455 293659 or [sml53@hotmail.com](mailto:sml53@hotmail.com), Eric Colley on 01455 293354 or [cwindward@aol.com](mailto:cwindward@aol.com), Mrs Marion Lambourne on 01455 290978 or [lambournem@dixie.org.uk](mailto:lambournem@dixie.org.uk), Mr Robert Leake on 01455 290020 or [r.leake@btinternet.com](mailto:r.leake@btinternet.com), Mr Peter Loseby on 01455 293659 or [sml53@hotmail.com](mailto:sml53@hotmail.com). Mrs Glynis Oakley on 01455 290348 or [Glynisoakley100@gmail.com](mailto:Glynisoakley100@gmail.com) Mrs Beth Dawes on 01455 290214 or [elizabethdawester@gmail.co.com](mailto:elizabethdawester@gmail.co.com) Mrs Diane Coleman on 01455 290933 or [brucediane64@gmail.com](mailto:brucediane64@gmail.com)

Regards

MBS Committee