



January 2019

Dear Member

A lot to look forward to!

I am delighted to be able to share with you this year's lecture and visit programme. This has been put together by your committee following a lot of challenging work and dedication. We started the process, as usual, in August and set ourselves some standards. We wanted to use local speakers, wherever possible and to include suggestions from you, our members. We also wanted to try and make the lectures about local subjects, again, wherever possible. This is becoming increasingly difficult as we have had more lectures than we have new lecturers! I honestly think we have a lot to look forward to this coming year. If you do have an idea for a lecture, would like to deliver one yourself or know of an interesting lecturer (thank you Derek), please get in touch. Whilst we have set up this forthcoming year's programme we will keep the details on file for next year.

2019	Title	Presenter
Jan 17th	Castles of Leicestershire	Richard Knox
Feb 21st	Flint Knapping	Robert Wells
Mar 21st	AGM/ The Tigers Caged	Robin Jenkins
Apr 25th	Holy Wells-Three Coins in a Fountain	Margaret Barrett
May 16th	Fire Brigade	Leics Fire Service
Jun 20th	Battlefield Line History Of	Coen Bos & Friends
July 11th	Visit to Bradgate Park	Peter Liddle MBE
July 18th	Peter Hall "The Great Escape"	Neville Hall
Aug 15th	Visit to the Glenfield Tunnel	David Lyne
Sept 19th	Local History Event from the MBS Archive	Robert Leake Referee
Oct 17th	Agents in Petticoats	David Humbertson
Nov 21st	The Role of the Barber Surgeon in the Wars of the Roses	Eddie Smallwood

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Jan 16th	Tactical Battle of Bosworth	Richard Knox
Feb 20th	Baxterly Pit Disaster 1882 - Death of my ancestor	Eddie Smallwood
Mar 19th	Richard Dawes a Flawed Genius	David Woolerton
April 16th	Field Walking Tips and Discoveries!	Roger Thomas

You will notice that there is an extra event in July. We had to change the date of that month's visit to fit in with Bradgate Park but at the same time Peter Loseby told me about research Alf Pallett was doing on Flight Lieutenant Peter Hall of Shenton. Peter was involved in the Great Escape and also The Great March. Peter Hall kept a diary and other records of his time as a Prisoner of War and his son Neville Hall had used these to make a short programme for BBC Radio Leicester. After a bit of persuasion Neville has agreed to give us a lecture based on his father's experiences. I think you will agree that it is worth an extra event in July.

Meeting Report “Castles of Leicestershire and Rutland” – Richard Knox

There were very few spare seats in The Free Church as we settled down to hear Richard Knox's lecture about Castles of Leicestershire. Richard is more usually to be found at the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre where he is the curator, amongst his other jobs. Richard



began by explaining the genesis of castles and why they were important and carefully located. He introduced us to motte and bailey, not as may be thought, a Medieval forerunner of Balfour Beatty, but the name given to the style of construction. The bailey was a large area within a wall or fence, standing on a raised piece of land, totally man made. Within would be many living quarters, barracks, kitchens, stores a great hall (Leicester castles great hall

survives today as the business school of the DeMontfort University and can be viewed on certain days. A visit for next year I think, to gaze upon the woodwork constructed in the C12). In digging the mound, a moat would have been created and served as a water supply and secondary defence. The motte was a much higher mound, also entirely made by human effort, upon which would stand a fortified tower. The motte was connected to the bailey by a bridge or more commonly, steps.

I was not the only member of the audience to be surprised to learn that there were 26 castles within Leicestershire and Rutland. Richard was able to tell us about them all, how and when they were built and how they ended. Some ended suddenly, being blown up to prevent them being reused as is the case with Ashby Castle at the end of the Civil War, many though were simply abandoned as populations changed and the threat of attack receded. I could speculate, that like me, your thoughts when seeing the title above would be of Belvoir Castle. Standing as it does in such a commanding position. Surprisingly that castle was completely built in the C19 and bears no medieval material in its construction at all.

After answering many questions, which illustrated the depth of Richards knowledge, not only of castles but of history in general, I asked him about something he had told me on the

previous day at a Heritage meeting. That being, evidence of Roman activity had been discovered, thought to be a temple to the god Mars and that Richard was heavily involved in the plans for a dig this summer. Richard has promised to keep me informed of progress and I in turn promise to share this exciting development with you. A thoroughly good evening, thank you Richard

Next Month Flint Knapping - Robert “Bob” Wells (Thursday 21st February, 7:30pm)



I met Bob for the first time at The Market Bosworth Festival of Archaeology, part of the Bosworth Links project, in July 2018. Bob is a very knowledgeable man and an expert in his subject. Bob is a self-taught knapper and he will share with us some of his successes and failures as he perfected his style. There will also be a collection of flints made many years ago, some from the Neolithic period which was 75,000 to 50,000 years BC. Amazing that through Bosworth links we know that three quarters of a million years

ago, our ancestors lived in and around Market Bosworth. Not only that, we know from evidence discovered during the digs they would have made and used these flint tools. It is not just about knapping, but to find out more you will have to come along. The Meeting will be held in The Free Church, Barton Road. Entry for Members of the Market Bosworth Society is free, for guests, you are most welcome, provided we can find you a seat. We ask for a small guest donation, usually £3.00 help towards the cost of the evening. Do please come along and get in touch with Stone Age men and women.



Heritage Forum Meeting

I was recently invited to attend a Heritage Forum Meeting hosted in the Heritage Room at the Bosworth Battlefield Centre. I was one of 23 delegates from local clubs and societies, such as ours together with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council employees and advisers. The forum was set up for local society chairmen and committee members to meet and network, also to share ideas. We started by introducing ourselves and what the society we represented was all about. We had people from Earl Shilton, Burbage, Stoke Golding, Sheepy Magna, all over the Borough. One thing struck me as I was listening to the other introductions was that we have a thriving society. Many are focussed upon one project. Some two but rarely more. I was able to tell how we support local businesses and groups with their projects, for example constructing timelines and sharing vintage photographs. Our Lecture Meeting and Visit Schedule, support for the Heritage Open Days, publications, Town Trail Guided Walks, Church Walks and of course Bosworth Links. It is a most impressive list, made possible by you, our members, and your committee. I was able to explain our ambitions for the future. I was very pleased and proud to be represent the Market Bosworth Society.

Digitalisation of the Archive

The sub-committee had our first meeting a couple of weeks ago and it went very well. We identified a change in equipment which was a better fit for our purposes. We were also advised about International Data Base Standards. The process is well underway, and our next meeting is being scheduled as we speak. If any member has any ideas, suggestions or would like to take part (I hesitate to suggest this as getting just 4 people in a room at the same time is proving a challenge) then do please let me know. We will need help with the actual archiving once we do get started. This will not be a heavy task or particularly technical but a wonderful way to spend a couple of hours doing something positive and worthwhile, in good company. The contact details are at the end of the Newsletter.



I have mentioned previously that your committee has wholeheartedly backed the continuation of the project well into the next few years. It is too early to say exactly what we have planned (as we have not actually planned anything yet, although we do have some exciting and challenging ideas) but I think I can say that there will be some activity in the Summer of 2019 with much greater activity in 2020. Or at least we hope there will be, a lot of work to be done in finalising our ambitions and then actually making and delivering plans. The final report to the Heritage Lottery Fund, our major sponsors has been accepted by them and it was with mixed emotions that I read their letter to me saying that they now considered the project closed. Or so they may think!

We have had a wonderful response from our volunteers to keep in touch with over 90 signing General Data Protection Rules forms in order that we may retain their details to maintain contact. Rest assured they will be hearing from us regularly.

Items of Interest to Members?

I have been asked to share some information and dates with you from friends nearby. The first being, Tim Richardson of White Dove Gallery. Shenton who is arranging a vintage coach tour of the Bosworth area for Sunday 5th May.

With 30 seats available, the tour will visit a number of places, mostly members of the Market Bosworth Rural Tourism Association.

The tour will last most of the day and Eddie Smallwood of Legions to Legends will act as tour guide for the journey, offering visitors the chance to learn more about the history of the area.

I have no other information at this point, but with only 30 places available it is likely to book up fast. For more information please contact Tim direct by telephone:07890 002127 or by email: tim.richardson220@gmail.com.

Also, our friends at the Battlefield Line wish to share their Feb. 2019 time table. With you



For February 16th to the 24th inclusive.

Saturday and Sunday 16 and 17: Steam pulled

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. 19,20 and 21: Diesel (DMU)

Saturday and Sunday 23 and 24: Steam pulled.

Timetable for the green (steam) and blue (diesel) days respectively:

February						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Something to do at Half Term maybe?

And Finally

I have been tinkering with the website. I studied the analytics which showed visits to our site. Whilst we do have around 640 genuine visits per month, mostly from Google searches (I have discounted the bots who visit regularly but only for seconds, usually looking for weaknesses to exploit). We have also had over 500 attempts to log in by hackers over the last month, fortunately (so far at least) Wordfence (an anti-virus and security system programme) together with a strong and unusual user name and even weirder passwords has kept us safe. From the statistics I can see that the most popular pages are “Brief History of Bosworth”, “About Us” and “Bosworth Links”. These pages account for 65% of visits to the site. One tab which had not been visited for four consecutive months was “Planning”. It has therefore been removed (if you wish to view planning applications the Hinckley and Bosworth borough Council portal is simple and easy to use <https://pa.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/online-applications/> and the tab previously, simply led this this page anyway). It has been replaced with “Latest News” I am not entirely happy with the title, but it will do for now. On that tab I

intend to add latest information, I am in the process of adding the November lecture “Market Bosworth 1900 to 1918” as a number of people have asked if it can be made available. So far I have added the photographs and will be adding the text before too long. If you would like to see anything added please do let me know. If you happen to notice any broken links or if something is not working as it should please let me know and I or George Lees (who manage the website) will take a look at it. Should you be interested in internet technology and would like to help to service and support the website, please let me know. George and I would be happy to have a colleague (or two) to share some of the updating and repairing. This could be a way for a youngster to get involved with the Society and learn something about Wordpress or wizardry as I often appears to me.

Contact Details

www.marketbosworthsociety.com email: infor@marketbosworthsociety.com Telephone: 07930149408 or 01455290160 Market Bosworth Society and Bosworth Links also have a Facebook page.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Palmer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nigel Palmer

Chairman